

A brief history of the Walkman

News Analysis, page 11

Where glamour meets suburbia

The store that appeals to everyone

Section Two, page 6



■ Major challenged over threat to children ■ Third of schools ban beef ■ Cattle prices slump Europe bans British beef

Westminster Correspondent

A Europe-wide ban on British beef started last night as consumers and their governments digested Britain's admission of a possible link between beef and

France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden closed their borders to British heef and others were considering following suit.

Germany said yesterday it wanted the EU to order a total ban. European Commission experts held an emergency meeting in Brussels with Britain's stant chief veterinary officer, Kevin Taylor, to gather more details of the new evidence that eating beef infected by BSE, or mad cow disease, could lead to the potentially fatal Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease in

The European Commission sought to play down the risk to consumers, pointing out that since 1990, when EU wide curbs were first agreed, it had "erred on the side of caution". The rules, a spokesman said, were drawn up "in anticipation of a possible link between BSE and Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease". These require exports from Britain to be free of offal and nervous tissue; to come from herds free of BSE for at least six years and from animals, almost doubled. younger than 30 months at the time of slaughter.

But as the Government continued to play a straight bat to Opposition pressure for a de-

ministers made clear that the Government would to go to the European Court of Justice, if ssary, to outlaw the overseas bans. After Douglas Hogg. Minister of Agriculture, said a French suspension was "prob-ably illegal", Whitehall sources indicated they would be asking the European Commission in the first instance to order the

suspension to be lifted. At Prime Minister's Question Time in the Commons yesterday, Tony Blair challenged John Major over the dangers to chil-

dren of contracting CID from infected beef. The Prime Minister noticeably stopped short of saying it was safe to continue feeding them beef. More than one third of

serve beef to pupils.

Yesterday the number of education authorities banning beef Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of-State for Health, is expected to make a statement in the Com-

The minister, asked about yesterday's revelation in the Independent that its health experts had considered recommending the destruction of the 11.8 million strong national herd, admitted the Government would be prepared to take this drastic step, if necessary. The cost of such action could run to £20bn.

As beef prices fell heavily at markets and shares in food companies on the Stock Market also dipped, Labour accused Mr Dorrell of failing to come clean about BSE Alan Milburn, Shadow Health Minister, said Mr Dorrell had failed to disclose all the options his advisers had been considering.

"We should be told what options were considered by SEAC; which options were rejected and why, whether the Government believes it is safe to continue feeding beef to children." Public concern is so great, said Mr Milburn, that "ministers have a duty to be fully open about the considerations which have so far taken paice behind closed doors."

Germany said it wanted the EU to order a total bau. European Commission experts held an emergency meeting with Britain's assistant chief veterinary officer Kevin Taylor to gather more details of the new evidence. The European Commission sought to play down any risk to consumers, pointing out mons on Monday about the that since 1990, when EU wide risks to children, after SEAC, curbs were first agreed, it had the independent committee of "erred on the side of caution".



# Ulster election | Nationwide gun amnesty is ordered plan sinks hope of ceasefire

DAVID MCKITTRICK and COLIN BROWN

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Marie Marie Carlo

Hopes for an early resumption - cated from the aggregate of the of the IRA ceasefire plummet - votes across Ulster, two each to ed last might as John Major's - the 10 most successful parties.

The nationalist position had produced a wave of anger among nationalists and republicans in Northern Ireland.

for the elections on 30 May, together with the establishment of ist majority. The SDLP also suga new forum, were welcomed by gested a referendum for peace David Trimble's Ulster Unionists and the Rev Ian Paisley's Major's announcement came DUP. But they drew a furious response from Sinn Fein and John Hume's SDLP, despite a plea from Mr Major to Sinn Fein "not to walk away from the best chance of peace in a

generation . The British and Irish Governments had hoped the promise of all-party negotiations on 10 June would persuade the IRA army council to restore

the ceasefire. Mr Major said a hybrid system for electing a 110-seat forum to appoint the negotiating teams bad been chosen because the parties had failed

to agree on a single system. constituencies in Northern Ire- the elections, which is to be land will be allocated from rushed through Parliament party constituency lists of after the Easter recess.

each party's share of the vote. A further 20 seats will be allo-

been that no election was needed and if one was to he held it should simply produce negoti-The complex arrangements ating teams, not a forum, which or the elections on 30 May, to would inevitably have a Unionon both sides of the border. Mr down against these points.

proposals represent a blatant-ly Unionist agenda," he said. John Hume, the SDLP

Martin McGuinness, of Sinn Fein, described the proposals as anathema. "This makes it all the more difficult to convince the IRA that there is a real case for a second cessation. The British

leader, privately told colleagues the plan would make it more difficult to get the IRA to end the violence. The SDLP deputy leader, Seamus Mallon, con-demned "a Monster Raving

Loony election proposal". But Tony Blair, the Labour leader, made it clear Labour Five seats in each of the 18 would support the legislation for



Lord Cullen: Will report 'as soon as possible'

A nationwide guns amnesty, in the wake of the Dunblane massacre, could begin in a matter of weeks, the Prime Minister said yesterday.

In a brief Commons statement. John Major said that the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, had been in discussion with the police and that "details" of how and when the firearms amnesty would take place were being worked out urgently. Mr Howard said he would like the amnesty to begin "as soon as possible".

Although a weapons amnesty has been under discussion by the Government since last July, the murder of 16 schoolchildren in

Dunhlane, and the inquiry that will be carried out by Lord Cullen, have acted as catalysts for immediate government aclion. Yesterday the Secretary of State for Scotland, Michael Forsyth, announced the judicial inquiry's terms of reference. The brief for Lord Cullen is wide, giving him powers to in-vestigate the circumstances

leading up to and surrounding" the mass murders on 13 March. With Lord Cullen told to "report as soon as practicable", the timetable for the amnesty - if it goes ahead within weeks - will be operative as the Dunblane Inquiry gets under way. The Dunblane shootings and the public's call for action by the au-

an anticipated autumn amnesty. Estimates of illegally held guns in Britain vary from 500,000 to more than 1 million. In the last guns amnesty, in-

troduced in 1988 as a consequence of the Hungerford massacre where 16 people were shot, 48,000 firearms were surrendered. The amnesty which followed, according to the Home Office vesterday, was organised within a few weeks of being announced. In a similar scheme in 1968 25,000 guns were handed in.

Mr Forsyth said the inquiry will follow the procedures which operated in the Aberfan Inquiry. The inquiry in Wales thorities have clearly accelerlooked at the causes of the report as soon as practicable."

ated the Government's plans for deaths in 1966 of the 116 children and 28 adults killed when a coal slag-heap collapsed and covered a school. As recommended by Lord

Cullen, the Dunblane Inquiry will take evidence on oath and will be conducted under the Contempt of Court Act 1981. Mr Forsyth told the Commons the reference would he: "To inquire into the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the events at Dunblane Primary School on Wednesday 13 March 1996, which resulted in the deaths of 18 people; to consider the issues arising therefrom: to make such interim and final recommendations as may seem appropriate; and to

The Government hope to submit its evidence on gun control to Lord Cullen's inquiry by the end of next month. Mr Howard will also conduct a review of firearms controls in Britain. The government has invited the Home Affairs spokesmen from the opposition parties to meet them and raise any issue they would like to see the review address.

In Dunblane yesterday funerals of those killed in the massacre continued. In the eathedral a service for the teacher Gwen Major was held. Parents of some of the dead and injured children, and some of the injured children from Mrs Major's class, also attended the

#### British bookies take sumo into cyberspace The service lonks like a sure

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY Tokyo

A British-based bookmaker has taken to evberspace to help the gambling-crazy Japanese overcome Draconian betting laws

which forbid bets on top sports from sumo wrestling to football. SSP International Sport Bet-ting, which has made £25,000 a week from telephone and fax wagers placed by Japanese punters since it was set up in 1989, is expecting its new Internet service to attract more than 1,000

win — the Japanese spend more on the sports they are al-lowed to gamble on than any other nation. Betting on horseracing is four times that in Britain, and total spending in 1993 was a total of 27th yen, nearly 6 per cent of gross national product. Two-thirds of this goes on pacbinko, a

strangely addictive Japanese

But restrictions leave Japanese gambiers with little choice of where to place their money apart from a small-scale

version of pinball.

lottery, betting is confined to bi-cycle, motorbike, speed-boar and borse-racing with wagers placed on the day with a only handful of bookies run by sports associations. The great national passions, sumo, baseball and soccer, as well as casinos, are

It is this gap that SSP is hoping will lead to a big pay-day— if it is allowed to. Following a test run on the Internet last week the Japanese National Police Agency launched an investigation. SSP is based in London, but

strictly off-limits.

Cup (Japan is the favourite at But the Japanese police are interested. Recently the In-

Of the 16 languages on offer, in-cluding Finnish, Chinese and the problems that accompany Thai, Japanese is by far the most it," a police spokesman said. lucrative. Eleven bookmakers, This case is just one of including one Japanese, set the them, and we are giving it our

company's odds. Favourite bets at present are Eric Sedensky, who lived in the high-school spring base-ball tournament, the outcome Tokyo for eight years before be-coming SSP's Japan developof the Oscars, and the ferocious battle between Japan and South Korea to host the 2002 World

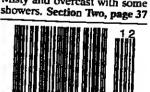
ment manager, said: "It is totally ridiculous. If we set up on a street corner in Tokyo we'd be arrested in a moment. But we're based in the UK, the bets are received in the UK, and

they're made in cyherspace.

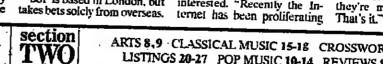
INBRIE Chinook crew 'cleared'

The crew of the RAF Chinook helicopter which crasbed in the Mull of Kintyre in 1994 killing all 29 people on board were not necessarily to blame for the accident, an enquiry report is expected to reveal.

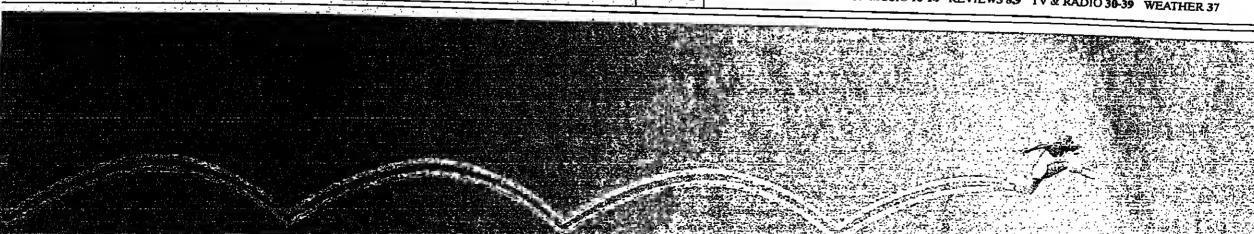
Today's weather Misty and overcast with some



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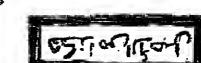
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# Mackay seeks way to halt stalkers

Political Correspondent

Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, is discussing a new law against stalking with minister-ial colleagues - in response to criticism of the law for failing to protect women whose lives are made a misery by men who pursue them obsessively.

Lord Mackay is believed to have floated the idea of ders' to cover cases of stalking. This would would allow victims to obtain orders against unsatisfied they find intimidating.

At the moment there is no law against watching and following people, or sending them unwanted letters, flowers or gifts. Stalkers can only be prosceuted for breaches of the peace, or threatening, abusive or insulting behaviour - in which case it must be proved that they acted with intent to cause harassment and alarm.

The maximum penalty for intentional harassment is six

months jail and a £5,000 fine, wanted attention that a court is but police say they are handicapped by the difficulties of

> The Family Law Bill, currently going through Parliament, provides for "non-molestation orders" against people connected by family or domestic relationship. A source close to Lord Mackay said: This could be a way of dealing with stalking more generally.

> The orders can specify the type of molestation in question. They are a civil rather than a

criminal remedy, but they could give the police the power of arrest in cases where they are breached.

Minister have already signailed their willingness to legislate against stalking and the Home Office is examining the options, including looking at laws in Australia, Canada and the US, where stalking is a crime. A man who stalked the pop star Madonna was recentailed in California.

Home Office sources say that Lord Mackay's plans may

not go far enough for Michael stalked are frustrated by the in-Howard, the Home Secretary, adequacy of British law. And who may prefer to make stalk-

But Labour claims that the Government voted down an opposition move to make stalking an offence in 1994, and failed to provide parliamentary time for a private member's Bill brought in earlier this month by Janet Anderson, Labour MP for Rossendale and Darwen.

She told the Commons: "British women who have been

while the targets of obsession goon suffering, police officers are frustrated and angry with the absence of a specific offence of

a survey of stalking after con-

cluding that the law is inade-

plained he was unable to con-

more than two years because no

in the current parliamentary ses-

sion but it is still possible that

a measure could be brought for-

ward before a general election

There will be no legislation

law had been broken.

next spring.

stalking. She said there were too many cases where women's lives had been "devastated by the actions of obsessive former partners, or sometimes complete strangers" Stalking did not just affect members of the royal family and celebrities, she said.

The Association of Chief Po-

IN BRIEF

#### Legal aid bill over Sony court battle

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2.115

A middle-aged German's legal hid to prove he invented the Sony Walkman will cost the British taxpayer £500,000 after his claim was thrown out by three Court of Appeal judges. Anneas Pavel, who spent a film inheritance battling the Japanese multi-national through the quate. It drew attention to a case when a magistrate comvict a defendant who had stalked a 24-year-old woman for courts, han to fight the appeal on legal aid.

The judges ordered Pavel to pay the costs of Sony and Toshiba, but all will be funded by legal aid. Pavel, who now lives in Milan, hoped to claim up to £100m in royalties from Sony if he won his appeal. He now faces bankruptcy. The patent was originally ruled invalid in 1993.

#### Teen drinking rises

Underage drinking is on the rise, with teenagers drinking more alcohol more frequently. Between 1990 and 1994 there was a "marked increase" in the number of pupils aged 11 to 15 who drank alcohol every week. said a survey of secondary schools by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. Some were consuming the equivalent of four pints a week.

#### OAPs badly beaten

Two women pensioners, aged 90 and 76, were seriously ill in hospital after being savagely beaten by an intruder at a block of flats. The younger of the two may have lain bleeding with a fractured jaw for up to 17 hours at the complex in Barry, South Glamorgan. The 90-year-old had severe facial injuries. Police were hunting a man aged be-tween 20 and 30 seen nearby.

#### Director quits

Carol Tietjen, personnel director of the former Yorkshire region of the NHS, has resigned her £44,000 post as Director of Human Resources at Oxfam af-ter damning criticism last week by the National Audit Office of her performance in her NHS post. She was accused of failing to declare an interest over contracts let to her husband.

#### **Burns boy 'miracle'**

A three-year-old boy who suffered 94 per cent burns in a firewhich killed his mother is believed to have made Butish medical history by surviving for six weeks. Adam McKelvie's fight for life has amazed surgeons at Stoke Mandeville Hos-pital, Aylesbury, Bucks, where he had several skin grafts.

MARKET POLICE.

Stock

jet.

#### Hotel knife death

A British bosinessman has been knifed to death in a Chinese hotel room. The body of David Shangrila Hotel, Shenzhen, on Mr Swindells, 59. married with three children from Frilford Heath near Abingdon, Oxon. was a consultant with the United States based company Corning Inc, inventors of Pyrex.

#### **Rev Niall Johnstone**

Reporting evidence to MPs considering the forces' ban on homosexuals (20 March), we incorrectly referred to the Rev Niall Johnstone as a former army chaplain dismissed from . the forces. The Rev Johnstoneresigned as an infantry officer to train for ordination. We apologise for our error.

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## Chinook crash inquiry set to absolve pilots

**CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY** Defence Correspondent

The crew of the RAF Chinook helicopter which crashed in the Mull of Kintyre killing all 29 people on board were not necessarily to blame, the report of the inquiry into the accident is expected to reveal today.

A Ministry of Defence investigation into the crash on 2 June 1994, which killed 25 military and civilian anti-terrorist experts, blamed the accident on the negligence of the four-man

But the fatal accident inquiry report, and due to be published this morning, will say it is unable to determine the cause of the tragedy, The accident killed many of

the key figures in the fight against terrorism in Northern Ireland, including the army's head of intelligence in the province, senior RUC officers and several members of the Security Service, M15. They were en route from Belfast's Aldergrove airport to a conference in Scotland when the US-built Chinook helicopter slammed into a mountainside, killing all

The report of the 18-day fa-

uary this year, which was chaired by Sir Stephen Young, the Sheriff of North Strathelyde, is to be released in Paisley this

The inquiry is broadly equivalent to a coroner's inquest in England and Wales and its findings are not binding on the MoD or the RAF. However, it is likely to prove embarrassing for the MoD hecause it is expected to contradict the findings of their official inquiry published on 25 June

The latter concluded that the pilots. Flight Licutenants Jonathan Tapper and Richard Cook, were negligent because they continued to fly towards the high ground of the Mull of Kintyre in unsuitable weather conditions.

The weather forecast at the time of take-off from Northern Ireland was suitable for the route flown but the weather deteriorated during the approach to the Mull of Kintyre. RAF personnel were also

witnesses at the Sheriff's inquiry. which it is understood concluded they could not be blamed. The pilots' families have accused the RAF of making them scapegoats for the



New destination: A collection of historic railway posters, which lay undiscovered for many months in a property in East Anglia, was auctioned by Onslow's at Carisbrooke Hall, London, yesterday

Photograph: John Lawrence

## Labour to take tougher stance over Railtrack

and COLIN BROWN

Labour will commit itself to a state stake in Railtrack, after differences over its postprivatisation future were resolved in favour of a tougher than expected commitment to public ownership.

Although the exact wording of Labour's intention to run a publicly owned and accountable Railtrack has yet to be finalised, the policy - which is expected to be included in next month's privatisation prospectus – was agreed in substance at a meeting of key Labour figures on Wednesday evening.

The wording is expected to make it clear that the public interest in Railtrack will not be restored until resources allow. But the language will leave no doubt over its overall goal and will be formulated in way designed to create considerable

The approval of the Labour the £2bn subsidy for passenger costs involved.

icy will be read by some in the abour Purty as a victory for John Prescott, the deputy leader, over Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, who had orginally argued that the publie interest in Railtrack should be protected by regulation

rather than ownership. Mr Brown, however, is understood to have given his approval to the new railway Although party figures

strongly deny the debate was polarised, Clare Short, the shadow Transport Secretary was said to have at one time backed Mr Brown, while her deputy, Brian Wilson, the spokesman, supported Mr

The statement of the new policy will make it clear that Labour is not committed to continue transferring rail subsidy to the rail network through the

leader, Tony Blair, for the pol-services will be paid to franchise operators who then pay Railtrack access charges for the right to use the network's infrastructure.

By reopening that issue, the party will raise the prospect of subsidising Railtrack directly at the same time as letting the franchise operators be free of access charges.

Such a switch could also reopen the question of how the regulatory regime would oper-

The prospecius for the £1.5bn flotation of Railtrack will be published next month and party officials believe that the inclusion of the Labour formula could well deter some wouldbe investors from coming for-

There has been fierce debate

within senior levels of the party over the kind of commitment to make on Railtrack. But Mr Blair is said to have been openminded while seeking to ensure Under Government policy that there were no unacceptable Police in hunt for football gang

JASON BENNETTO

Police are examining possible links between three robberies on prominent football personalities after the wife of Ron Atkinson, manager of Coventry City, was left handcuffed at

her home overnight. Interpol has been contacted about the possibility of a gang being responsible for robberies against famous people as far away as Australia. They were alerted after it was noticed the same method was used in the crimes. It involves attacking the man and handcuffing him. before making the wife show where the valuables are kept

and then handcuffing her. In the latest incident three masked raiders burst into the home of Maggie Atkinson, the wife of Ron Atkinson, near Bromsgrove, Hereford and Worcesier, at about 9.30pm on Wednesday, Mrs Atkinson was forced to open the family safe and the robbers gut away with cash and lewellery.

Before leaving they hand-cuffed Mrs Atkinson to the banister of the upstairs landing. She was not discovered until 12



Ron Atkinson: Wife was

left handcuffed

tremely distressed but suffered no injury in the raid except for ahrasions caused by the handcuffs.

Mr Atkinson said: "It has been particularly distressing, hut fortunately Maggie is very Det Insp Steve Walters, lead-

ing the investigation, said last night: "We will be talking to colleagues in other forces where similar incidents have occurred. Staffordshire police are in-

vestigating the robbery of Bill Bell, chairman of Port Vale football club, at his home in Jan uary. During the raid Mr Bell and his wife, both in their sixties, were left tied up in separate rooms after three masked men plundered their home in Stoke-on-Trent. Police are also looking at links with the robbery of Leeds United chairman Leslie Silver. Three masked men broke into Mr Silver's home in Leeds on 11 March and hours later at 10.30am yester-day by a family employee. Mrs bound and gagged him and his wife before stealing jewellery.

## Cancer doctor got job without any interview

NICHOLAS TIMMINS

vesterday's inquiry. Trent region appointed Dr Kiberu without a medical interview and despite his experi-ence not matching that recommended in NHS guidance, the inquiry said yesterday. And central funding for a quality assessment scheme

to be detected earlier - has been ended by the Department of Health, the report revealed. The report criticises both

the Trent region and the two hospitals over Dr Kiberu's ap-

lowed a temporary locum consultant who made more than 80 major errors in diagnosing cancer and other diseases to be appointed without any other senior doctor interviewing him, an inquiry revealed yesterday.

Dr Sam Kiberu, a histopathologist who made 531 errors in diagnosing 4,226 cas-

es, 83 of them classified as "major", worked at Grantham and Bassetlaw hospitals in Lincolnshire and Derbyshire. His mistakes were uncovered by Dr David Clark, the consultant histonathologist who succeeded him at Grantham, and whose actions were commended by

which might help prevent such cases in future – or allow them



Public Policy Editor

"administrative shortcomings and weaknesses" there is "no evidence to conclude that these led directly to [his] inappropriate employment". It is possible that Dr Kiberu, a graduate of a Tanzanian medical school who had become a fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists in 1990, would have been appointed anyway.

Tougher standards over the

> suggests - even if this risks short-term disruption of services". It also recommends wider adoption of external quality assessment schemes to standards improve histopathology, but says the Department of Health has withdrawn central funding for them.

The department admitted that yesterday, but said it hoped pilot and demonstration project would begin again next year, funded through laboratories charging a levy on NHS trusts for the services they provide.

appointment of consultants are

needed, however, the report

Dr Kiberu has been sus-pended since January 1995 until the end of his NHS contract this month, but is understood to be working in the Middle East.

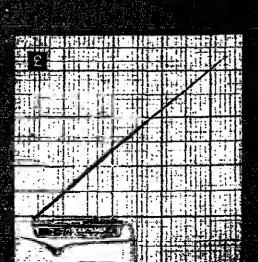


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hardest hit, it predicts. A housing surplus will depress prices. This is likely to be reinforced by the inheritance of property he-queathed to their heirs by the first post-war generation of owner occupiers.
The regional differences will be pronounced, however. The population in East Anglia, the East Midlands, the South West and South East will continue to

Economics Editor

search Council (ESRC).

grow, at the expense of the North and London. Presenting the report yesterday as part of the Department of Trade and Industry's contribution to Science Week,

Distribution of household types

1991-2016.%

Feel-bad factor

predicted as

population falls

enable them to anticipate these

The Chancelior may be able to look forward to a revival in consumer spending this year but his counterparts in the next century will face a serious "feel-bad" problem. Levels of consumer spending will fall as the British population shrinks after about 2020, according to a new report by the Economic and Social Re-The housing market will be

Other trends he highlighted included growing inequality of income, job insecurity, the age-

per cent to 24 per cent between 2000 and 2021. During the next 15 years the number of consumers aged 50-65 will climb by 2.8 million to 11.6 million, while University of Kent, said there the number of 15 to 30-year-olds were other economic and social will be static. Businesses servtrends anticipated in the next ing the elderly should thrive. two decades which would mean By the year 2000, a third of households will consist of one profound changes in consumer person – a high proportion of them elderly – buying goods and services for themselves. Lone Talking up the usefulness of ESRC-funded academic research as opposed to traditionparents will account for more market research, he said: than 11 per cent of all house-Businesses should take a step holds. They tend to be poorer back and look at the social and than average and to huy fewer economic forces that shape of the housebold goods married long-term consumer trends to couples furnish their nests with The technological revolution is

> The consumer implications of other trends identified by Professor Scase are less wellknown. For instance there is likely to be a significant rise in the number of women in professional and managerial jobs. By 2000 more than a third of women employees will be in

leaving them behind.

ing of the population, rising

women's incomes, and the growing proportion of one-person households and single-

Some of these are already

vell-publicised. For instance

the proportion of over-65s in the

population will increase from 20

parent families.

The evidence from the United States suggests demand for labour saving devices, security measures and new services such as teleshopping and multi-media will expand as a result. Job insecurity will favour

products that are durable and functional. Luxuries and credit purchases could decline.

# Branch manager: Wendy Foulger, of the Aberglasnay Restoration Trust, Llandeil, Wales, takes shelter in a 1,000-year-old yew tree tunnel,

probably the oldest in existence. The trust is appealing for financial help to support its historic hall and grounds

## Mast sends wrong signal to Lloyd Webbers

STEVE BOGGAN

The man who funded the discovery of Tutankhamun's 10mb s huried there. De Havilland flew his first aircraft from there. And for centuries, bonfires have been lit there at times of national celebration and tragedy. Beacon Hill is rich in histo-

ry and beauty, the site of an Iron Age camp and no stranger to skirmishes. But no one could bave foreseen its latest role in the field of human conflict - the subject of a row between Lady Lloyd Webber and Lord Carnarvon over a Vodafone communications mast

Today, before blood can be spilled, Lord Carnarvon, grand-son to the man obsessed with Tutankhamun, will try to resolve the row he inadvertently started when he gave Vodafone temporary permission to erect the 15m mast at the foot of the



Lines crossed: Lady Lloyd Webber (left) objects to a

hill in Newhury. Berkshire, six tends to suggest moving it.

side of the ancient hill, has been huilt on a site of outstanding

natural beauty and has caused

mast put up on land near her by Lord Carnarvon (right) consternation in the Lloyd

months ago. To the possible joy of the composer's wife, he in-The mast, on the southern

Webber household next door. Although they cannot see the mast from their mansion, they feel its siting is an environmental outrage and they want Basingstoke and Deane council to matter next week. "It is outrageous that the mast has been put up in an area

mission when it debates the strike a balance between what

of outstanding natural beauty," said Lady Lloyd Wehher. Planners don't seem to care what they allow to go up. I've already written to the council objecting to the scheme. I'm astonished that Lord Carnaryon

and the council have given the

[temporary] go-ahead for it." After realising the extent of opposition to the mast - the council has received eight comlaints - Lord Carnaryon moved last night to defuse the situation and said he is determined not to let the upset turn into an ar-

I had a meeting with Lady Lloyd Webber two weeks ago and it was very amicable," he said. "No one is more aware of the importance of the site than I am - my grandfather is buried

the public needs in the form of better signals for their telephones, and what we all feel about the area. "I have been away, hut when

got back yesterday and learned of the strength of feeling, I got in touch with Vodafone and I'm having a site meeting with a director and an engineer tomorrow to see if it can be moved to a better spot and reduced in height by 3 metres. It turns out that they need it to service the south of Newbury, so it doesn't need to be high on a hШ."

He confirmed that he would receive rent from Vodafone for allowing the mast on his land. but declined to say how much.

Mike Caldwell, a spokesman for Vodafone, said: "These sites can be very expensive and intrusive. We want to do without

## It's official, happiness is winning the jackpot

MARIANNE MacDONALD Media Correspondent

Britain finally has an official antion of whether winning the jackpot on the lottery makes you

The question was posed yesterday by the Heritage Select Committee, which is investigating the lottery.

On the House of Commons stand were Ken Southwell, a communications engineer who won £839,000 as his share of the jackpot in the first lottery draw in November 1994, and Boh

Westland, a postmaster who won £3.8m last July. Toby Jessel, Tory MP for Twickenham, asked: "We were told that if people won big, it would make them miserable. wreck their lives and damage their family relationships.

"Has it made either of you miserable?" "The exact opposite," re-ported Mr Westland, "It made me very happy. It gave me se-curity for life, and anybody who says they would be made miserable by winning doesn't know what they are talking

Mr Southwell said: "It hasn't made me happier, because I was happy before. It made me a lot

more secure." Both men said that they had had no problems with harassment from the press, even though Mr Southwell won the jackpot on the first week when media interest was at its high-est. In retrospect I was fairly naive in that I made the fateful mistake of showing the landlord of the village pub the ticket." Mr Southwell said. "The press got to me before Camelot did."

The worst thing which had happened as a result of his win was that he was in effect sacked "I went back to work two days after the win [for TAS, a sub-sidiary of BSkyB] and I was quite happy to carry on. But I was shoved out. I think they questioned my loyalty. We're on a call-out system and I think they doubted I would get up if there was a blizzard and it was late at night."

The engineer from York has now bought several houses as investments and paid off his sis-Iter's mortgage. Mr Westland has sold his business and plans to

buy a country-house hotel. Neither had had any problem with jealousy or scroungers, they said. "It has been the exact opposite," said the jovial Mr. Westland. Twe had so many people come up and congratu-

## Vitamin E 'cuts heart disease risk'

**GLENDA COOPER** 

reduce the risk of heart attacks - by as much as 75 per cent according to new research by doctors at Cambridge Univer-

By comparison, aspirin, commonly taken by heart patients, provides a 25 to 30 per cent

The doctors who made the discovery believe this is wby Mediterranean people have much less heart disease than northern Europeans.

A team led by Professor Morris Brown, from the Cambridge University Clinical School, studied 2,000 patients with heart problems. Half were given vitamin E in an 18-month trial, while the others took

placebo tablets. The doctors found that the number of heart attacks in the vitamin E group was only a quarter of that in the placebo group, according to research, published in tomorrow's issue of the Lancet.

Professor Brown said: "We're very excited. We didn't expect. the effect on heart attacks to be so large. There has been a lot of circumstantial evidence of the benefit of vitamin E, but this is the first time anyone has come

up with a clear-cut answer. "Although it is early days, I will be recommending that pa-tients with angina and those who are at risk of heart disease should be given supplemen

tary vitamin E at a high dose.". Vitamin E is found in vegetable and fish oils. Olives, the benefit of alcohol.

olive oil, nuts, avocados and oily fish, like tuna and mackerel, all

The British Medical Journal also carries further evidence for the benefits of alcohol against heart disease, and claims that a range of drinks, not just wine, has a protective effect.

Previous research has suggested that substances found in wine - particularly red wine known as bioflavenoids, made it more effective than beer or spirits at reducing the risk of death from heart disease.

But American scientists who have reviewed major studies, say that all alcoholie drinks are linked with a lower risk. Dr Eric Rimm and col-

leagues from the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, reviewed a series of previous heart disease studies. Of 10 studies, four found a benefit from moderate wine drinking, four found the same benefit from heer, and four

from spirits.

Another paper, written by Danish scientists and also published in tomorrow's British Medical Journal, found that teetotal men with high levels of cholesterol had a five times greater risk of heart attack than those who consumed three or more alcoholie drinks a day.

Dr Hans Ole Hein and a team from Rigshospitalet State University Hospital, Copen-hagen, studied 2,826 men aged 53 to 74. They found that the more cholesterol the men had in their blood, the greater was

## Stocking answer to 'jet leg' swellings

dermatologist, writes Glenda

Jet flight leg has been attributed to passengers having to

low air pressure in the cabin. Professor Shuster, a fellow of Newcastle University, said that

oedema [swelling] is most com-

Elastic stockings could solve the It is usually noticed about three problem of swollen anxies on hours into the flight and varies flights, according to a retired from a slight ankle pitting to swelling of the lower leg.

He explains that if blood pressure remains unchanged hut the pressure in the cabin is sit still for long periods and is low then it will "suck" fluid out usually treated by massaging of the capillaries, creating and moving the legs. But in a let-swelling. "I have found the ter to the Lancer medical jour- elastie compression stockings nal, Sam Shuster suggests that prevent the swellings com-the cause of the swelling is the pletely in those with recurrent pletely in those with recurrent moderate or severe jet flight leg." he said.
"The stockings need only be

lightweight, below the knee mon amongst those with vari- and above the toe, but must be cose veins and women over 30. put on before the flight."

Arsonist is given six life sentences

A barman who murdered a mother and her five children by setting fire to their fourth floor flat, was given six life sentences at the Old Bailey yesterday. Judy Newell, 35, and her

children were said to have "screamed and screamed" as fire engulfed them at their flat in Bermondsey, south London.

The court was told Scott Vowls. 24, set the fire, hut the Newells had not been his target - he had wanted to settle a trivial argument with Mrs Newell's brother who, unknown to him, had moved out. Mrs Newell and her family had only been living in the flat for two days.

Vowls, of Bermondsev, had denied six charges of murder. But the jury found him guilty on

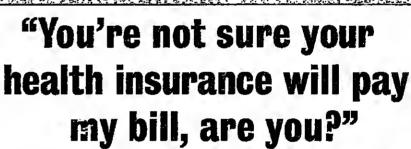
a majority verdict. One witness described the family as "looking like burning ghosts" as they perished. Mrs Newell, her children, Couriney. seven, Curtis, three, Nathan, one, and Cassandra, six, died in the blaze in january 1995. Ashley, four, survived the fire hut died later in hospital. Neighbours implored the mother to jump and throw down her children. They had mattresses and blankets ready to catch them.

After the jury convicted Vowls, police revealed he was a persistent firebug who was linked with fires at previous addresses hut had never been prosecuted

Vowls had trapped the family by placing a burning mattress outside the bedroom door, "To cause maximum devastation Vowls turned on four gas burners on the hob and turned the gas oven on," Richard Horwell. for the prosecution, said.

The arson attack was prompted by a trivial domestic row about untidiness and unpaid hills. Vowls was plotting his revenge against Mrs Newell's hrother, Lee Newell, whom he had shared the flat with before moving out. But Lee Newell had given up his room to his sister and her children who had nowhere to stay after leaving the children's father.

On the night of the killing Vowls and his dog were seen outside the flats by witnesses.



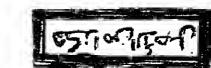
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# Research on risks to young may take years

CHARLES ARTHUR Science Correspondent

Scientists fear it will be impossible to give definitive guidelines on whether children can safely cat beef or its products without tresh experimental evidence. which could take months or years to produce.

But experts in the field of "mud cow disease", or BSE, and its equivalent forms in other species, believe that as long as BSE exists in cattle there will be a faint but real risk that it might sometion be passed on to

"We believe that if there's now any risk to children, then it must be on about the same this weekend at the urgent re-quest of Stephen Dorrell, the it must be on about the same level as that of crossing the road," said a member of SEAC. the independent advisory committee to the Government on BSE and its human form, that they will give special at-Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease

(CJD), yesterday.
"The point is, for adults the principal risk is all in the past. from the time before all the regulations (on what parts of cows could be used for food) were in the past. But for a baby born separate from SEAC hut

FRAN ABRAMS

Education Correspondent

More than one-third of all

schools have stopped serving beef at meals because of fears

about BSE, it was revealed ves-

terday. A further wave of bans

has been announced in the wake

of Wednesday's confirmation

of links between infected meat

and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

that 10,000 uut of 30,000

schools in England and Wales

had stopped serving beef be-cause of earlier scares.

at least 15 local authority areas.

some in all schools and some just

Bans were already in place in

Local authority caterers said

CHILDREN'S DIET

vesterday, the risks are all in the future. The equations are all different for babies and children than for adults.

A number of scientific experiments are now in progress to test how infectious BSE might be to humans. One, using mice with human genes, produced preliminary results last December which suggested that it was not. But the experiment needs another year at least to produce a final result.

The members of SEAC are holding an emergency meeting Secretary of State for Health, to decide what advice to give the Government on allowing children to eat beef. It is expected tention to the perceived risk from products such as sausages which use "mechanically recovered meat", produced hy tearing the careass apart using industrial equipment after the standard meat joints have been

One government scientist,

Pupils' menus changed

in primary schools. Yesterday a

further 11 authorities out of a total of 116 said either they were imposing an immediate ban or

they were reviewing their school-

meals policy.
Yesterday the Ministry of

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

cancelled a seminar scheduled

for next week designed to per-

suade local authorities that

beef was safe, saying that one

of the main participants had had

Last January Angela Brown-

to drop out.

involved in assessing the risk to the population from BSE, told the Independent yesterday: "The risk has never been from the muscle or the milk. It's all the other things. The constant tin-kering that has been done with the legislation has been to make sure that the really dangerous tissues - the brain and spinal cord - don't get into meat products." It is in those tissues that the disease agent - a mu-tated cell-membrane protein

to breed and cause the disease. But he admitted that in the light of the latest findings of SEAC - that 10 human deaths could have been caused by ex-posure to BSE-infected materials - he is re-calculating his risk

known as a prion - is believed

The new assessments will try to see whether it is reasonable to assume that the deaths were caused by exposure - occupational or otherwise - to materials which had been produced from BSE-infected cattle in the years before 1989. At that time. the Government introduced a series of measures banning the central nervous system in food

pressing concern that they were

Beef is a safe and wholesome

Yesterday the United King-

dom's biggest supplier of school meals, BET Catering Services,

said the majority of local au-

thorities in which it worked

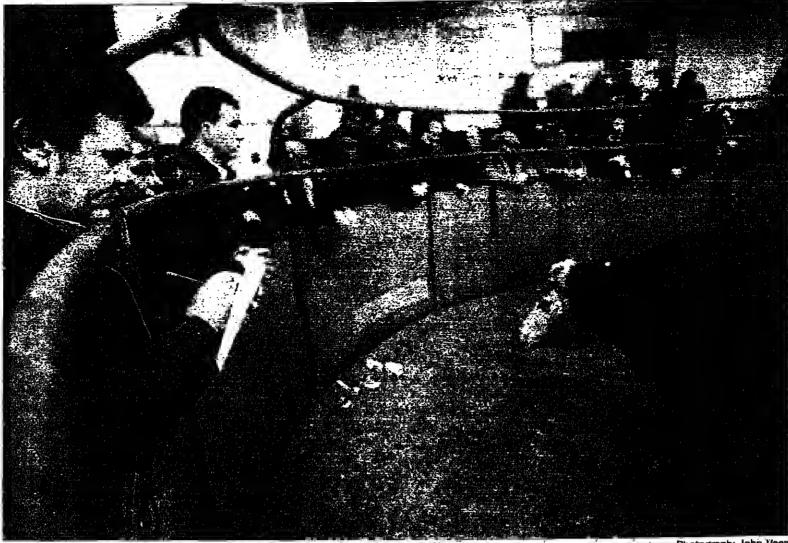
mittee for clear guidance on the

risks of serving beef to children.

not offering heef to children.

food and it would be unfortunate if growing children were denied it for no good reason.

her letter said.



Price of meat: A buyer keeps track of trading at Banbury cattle market yesterday

scare spells disaster for the

farmers because a lot of them

are already having trouble

THE BSE RISK

Organic'

armers

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## Markets plummet in wake of scare

**PAUL FIELD** 

It was not husiness as usual vesterday at the cattle market in Banbury, Oxfordshire, as farmers saw profits tumble in the auction ring. What should have been the busiest day of the year so far turned out to be the worst.

As farmers herded unsold prime beef cattle into lorries, the pain of counting the costs of the latest BSE scare was all too evident on their solemn faces. in the morning, they had watched in dismay as an auction of around 600 heifers and steers worth £650,000 on a normal day, fetched under £200,000. Nearly half the livestock went unsold.

had already taken heef off pri-However, as the value of mary school menus. The Local Authority Caterers beef cattle dropped the price of pigs and sheep rose amid expectations that consumers Association has joined ministers in asking the Spongiform En-cephalopathy Advisory Comwill change their eating habits.

Jim Watson, managing director of Midland Mart, which runs the auction, said: "This ers are picking up the tah for the

breaking even. Everyone is so despondent because they know recovery will take a long time." The price of beef cattle at Banhury fell yesterday from an average of 120p per live kilo to 100p, resulting in a loss for the farmer of around £130 on each

This was reflected across Britain. Many farmers held back their cattle as prices plummeted. On average prices were down £125 per head, from £725 last week. Small farmers - al-ready on tight profit margins -

face bleak prospects.

Mr Watson attacked the Government for failing to act as soon as "mad cow disease" was first detected in 1980s. "FarmGovernment which mishandled this from the start. When BSE was rife the Government should have taken infected cows out of the system hut they were too worried about the cost."

Around ring two in the auction area, traders stood with hands in pockets, where their money was staying. One said: "We are reluctant to huy because we do not know if there is a market. The scare has shattered the confidence of the industry hul it incenses me cause we all stopped selling

the bovine offal in 1989." Farmers shook their heads in despair as it became evident they were not only taking less money home but cattle that was ready for sale. Richard Cottrell. who had brought 20 animals to sell, said: "I got £9,000 last week for 10 animals. With the price down by about 15p a kilo I carl only expect about £7,000-£8,000

'I have to sell the today otherwise they will get too fat,"
He added: "It is doom and gloom here. People have a right to know about new scientific evidence but they should not stop eating beef. This cattle is safe."

Norman Thomas, who enloved spaghetti bolognese with his 12-year-old daughter and son aged 15 after the new evidence of a link between the hu-, man form of mad cow disease infected beef emerged, said: "This is prime beef. There is no risk whatsoever."

Mr Thomas, who has a farm near Highworth, near Swin-don, with around 200 beef cattle, was more optimistic. "I have sold eight animals today and am down £50 to £75 on each but I have made a small profit. We will still make money but it will be less than before.

He pointed out that most farmers will keep their heads this week for the same number. above water because they prac-

tice mixed farming. Some will be able to balance their hooks owing to the increase in the price of pigs and sheep.

In the bar, away from the

gloom of the auction, pints of. beer failed to lift spirits - it was left to rounds of beef sandwiches and plates of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding to do the trick. Barmaid Vivienne Booth: had shifted 152 heef sandwiches by lunchtime. "They cannot. get enough of them," she said.

Upstairs in the restaurant, a succulent shoulder of pork was noticeably untouched. Caterer Patricia Bott, busy carving a rapidly diminishing joint of heef, said: "It's an act of defiance. The farmers are cating it in principle because beef

Asked whether it was safe to eat she replied: "I certainly hope so, with the amount the farmers have been getting



Monday-Thursday 8am - 8pm - Friday 8am - 9pm: - Saturday 8am - 8pm: - Sunday 10am - 4pm: a opposition of the scale. Merchandres conject to availabe by Through Walternoon Trianger which closes Spir. Friday opposition of the Wignerian Northernoon Locals, Northernoptom, Mill Hall and Solution which open Hant. Spir and Horney.



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# Ban will send beef market into 'meltdown' y's

Where's the beef? What goes into different companies' meat products

KATHERINE BUTLER and IMRE KARACS

A Europe-wide ban on British beef was looming last night as consumers and their governments digested Britain's admission of a possible link between eating meat and the human form of "mad cow dis-

France, Belgium Sweden and the Netherlands closed their borders to British beef and others were considering following suit. Germany said it wanted the EU to order a total

ban. European Commission ex-perts held an emergency meeting with Britain's assistant chief veterinary officer, Kevin Taylor, to gather more details of the new evidence.

The Commission sought to play down any risk to consumers, pointing out that since 1990, when EU-wide curbs were first agreed, it had "erred on the side of caution". The rules, a spokesman said, were drawn up "in anticipation of a possible link between BSE and Creutzfeldt Jakoh Disease".

These require exports from Britain to be free of offal and nervous tissue; to come from herds free of BSE for at least six years and from animals younger than 30 months at the time of slaughter. Of the 30 million EU cattle

siaughtered each year out of a total herd of 80 million the incidence of BSE - 12,000 cases, nearly all in Britain - is small. it was also stressed.

rope are already turning their hacks on beef in the shops. We could be looking at meltdown." one senior official said.

would wait for the advice of chief scientists and veterinary officers who will meet today, but it was prepared to move rapidly if they advised new health measures. It stressed that unilateral decisions to ban British beef - such as those taken by France - were illegal but that member states may invoke the EU treaty to block imports in market. It may be too late for the event of a grave thr tighter measures. Rightly or public or animal health. the event of a grave threat to

Behind the scenes, alarmed carcases of infected animals ceuticals and cosmetics in the sibility can no longer he ruled out that the disease might be transmissible to humans."

The report continued: "Reports of suspected cases of CJD in fairly young people in the UK give good reason for concern. If as with, AIDS the significance uf the BSE problem is realised too late this may have grave consequences, proving fatal for virtually incalculable

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numbers of victims." If this scenario materialised, the report warned, the issue of state liability had to be raised meaning the Government

## Organic farmers claim a clean record

ROS WYNNE-JONES

of scare

organic farm has ever con-tracted BSE, the Soil Associa-

es of organically farmed cows infected with BSE, but all were on farms that had recently converted or were in the process of converting to organic methods. The use in livestock feed of animal remains, which is the transmission route for BSE, was banned in 1920 by organic farm-

Tim Finney, who runs a Swindon, Wiltshire, said when

"Dairy cows live a very hard life on conventional farms because milk is such a precious commodity. They were fed products made from old sheep and cows, even though they are naturally herbivores. If cows had never been given the feed in the first place we might never have

Mr Finney, who has worked organically since the late 1980s, said that 99 per cent of BSE cases had been found in dairy cartle. "It is not beef cattle we need to worry about. It is dairy cattie who have come to the end of their lives and beeo slaughtered for meat which have contracted BSE to date. ...

These cows are turned into manufacturing beef which goes into beef pies, tins and pasties - and is also used in schools, hospitals and work canteens be-

ganic, said eating organic pro-duce gave the public "personal ago he said his cows acted "like" junkies coming off junk"...

cent higher, and beef 10-12 per cent higher, when farmed organically. However, demand for organic produce exceeds availability and Mr Finney said his farm could not produce enough milk and meat. Patrick Holden, of the Soil Association. said not enough is being done

to support organic farming.
The Soil Association uses a The Soil Association uses a kitemark to identify produce farmed in a manner which commove had been particularly plies with its regulations, and this is a guarantee that beef, or any other meat, has not been fed A childless, single 30-year-old any other meat, has not been fed any animal or fish products or raised on land treated with any agro-chemicals or fertilisers.

Customers can check through the Soil Association how recently an organic farm has converted, should they be concerned about the lingering effects of previous convention-

tion said yesterday.

There have been seven cas-

ers, said a spokeswoman.

organic meat company near he first heard about BSE he was unsurprised. "I thought it served dairy farmers right."

cause it is cheap."
Oliver Dowding, whose farm in Somerset is also recognised by the Soil Association as orguarantees of health and happiness". When he changed over to organic methods seven years.

No animal born on a certified

seen BSE," he said.

The cost of milk can be 20 per

Privately, however, officials admitted they were hracing themselves for a potential collapse of the European beef

wrongly, housewives all over En-

The Commission said it

EU agriculture officials were already considering what, if any, scope exists in the £30hn EU farm hudget to compensate British livestock owners if total eradication of the UK herd of 1t million cattle gnes ahead. But with animals valued at up to £1,000 each, compensation claims could run as high as £11bn. "It would bust the bank. It cannot be done," said

one source. There are also doubts in the Cummission as to whether destroying the entire British herd would actually kill the BSE agent, which would live on in the

unless they were all cremated. European Union," the Ger-Taking the meat of healthy British animals into EU funded cold storage is not a prospect either, as it would be virtually impossible to dispose of.

Germany has yet to put in place any unilateral measures, hut will push hard for a Europewide ban, the government in Bonn said yesterday, and its influence will be pivotal. On the basis of the new in-

formation, the aim must be to secure a general export han from Britain for beef, beef products, offal, animal meal and raw materials for pharmaman agriculture and health ministries declared in a joint statement yesterday. "The measures must ensure that such products cannot be imported via third country."

Germany, where consumer

panic over mad cow disease has always been highest, warned its EU partners as long ago as 1994 that it did not believe Britain's claim that there was no link between the cattle hrain condition and CJD in humans. A German health ministry report, submitted to the Commission in

could be liable to compensate **Britain** holds breath

THE FUTURE

on CJD

epidemic

**CHARLES ARTHUR** and LIZ HUNT

The nation may know hy the end of this year whether it faces an epidemic of people suffering from Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (CJD) triggered by eating BSE-infected beef in the 1980s.

Government scientists are urgently re-examining their original risk assessments of the dangers posed by eating BSEinfected beef products. They want to see what the chances are that the 10 CJD cases which alerted them to a possible link with BSE were the tip of a slowly surfacing iccberg - or a statistical blip. "We are on tenterhooks

about the scenario that might emerge," said one member of SEAC, the independent expert committee, yesterday. "But we think it should become clearer in the next six-to-12 months. If we don't see too many cases then it could be that there

won't be an epidemic." To guide them, the scientists on SEAC and at the Government's own lahoratories have three existing models for the transmission of "spongiform encephalopathies" - of which BSE is one type. One is scrapie, the form it takes in sheep; another is feline spongiform encephalopathy (FSE), which affects cars; and the third is kuru, caused by cannibalism in humans, but which is effectively indistinguishable from CJD.

Kuru has a median incuhation period of about 12 years, and the 10 CJD cases appeared in the past two years. This, say the scientists, implies that the victims were exposed to the disease agent in about 1983-84, when the BSE epidemic was just beginning. If these 10 people represent the typical proportion of the population who will contract CJD, many thousands of people could succumb in the next five years, having eaten infected material between 1983

and 1989. However, the case of FSE may be a better guide. That first appeared in cats in 1989, almost certainly from eating infected cattle remains in food. But though it must have had an incubation period, and the number of cases of BSE did not peak for another three years, the number of cats diagnosed as having FSE has not increased radically, but has remained

fairly steady. "It could be that the reason for that is that we don't recycle cat offal to feed to cats. That was done with cows - and the BSE epidemic followed. The thing to remember is, we don't recycle human remains," said one scientist yesterday, weighing up the potential for an epidemic. That would imply that the new, BSEinduced CJD required a high dose and only affected certain susceptible individuals - meaning that the number of cases will

remain comparatively low. Significantly, Rob Will, head of the CJD Surveillance Unit, which spotted the new trend in CJD cases in Fehruary, sold the Independent yesterday: "We do not have a large number of suspect CJD cases in the pipeline."

It could he that BSE is not easily passed on to humans. People have eaten sheep infected with scrapie since the 18th century, but the incidence of CJD is not related to the incidence of scrapie: countries such as New Zealand, where scrapic is unknown, still record cases of CJD.

Accurate projections of the number of cases of CJD that may arise in a population ex-posed to BSE-infected meat, are further hampered by the lack of diagnostic tests for CJD before symptoms appear.

# Company Source Offat? Comments Comments Comments Use only 'select cuts' of

fighter and cattle reeds. Does not purchase cattle through livestock	Holland, Ireland	NO .	40 separate checks carried out by McDonald
Tesco. UK only. No Suppliers audited to see no proscribed offal used.	Burger King UK, Eire, Botswana	No	Only ground beef from flank and forequarter used, EU Veterinary Certificate.
Wimpy EU No Beef carries EU Veterinary Certificate. Mear taken from flank and forequarters.	Starburger UK only	. No	Suppliers are Oakland Fast Foods, same as Burger King and Wimpey
Marks and UK, Ireland, No No cow beef used, SBOs Spencer US, timed never used in St Michael	Sainsbury Confidențial	No	SBOs removed from card early on, as a precaution.
ineat from products, even prior to Argentina 1989 ban. All British beef and Brazil fresh, not frozen	Little Chef UK, South and Happy America Eater	No	No 'controversial parts of the carcass' used. Company stress that alternative dishes to beef are available.

# Meat buying's 20-year decline

GLENDA COOPER

The recent fall in beef consumption is only part of a 20year trend in which Britons have turned away meat, according to the latest data collected by the Economic and Social Research Council.

Researchers found that there had been a marked shift away

woman is now 20 per cent less-likely to buy meat than 20 years ago and her male contemporary is 15 per cent less likely to. The proportion of people

who say that they are vegetarians also more than doubled from 1984 to 1995, to the point : where 4.5 per cent of adults now declare themselves to be vegeTHE CONSUMER

tarian. Sales of meat substitutes - for example, tofu, TVP and Quorn — increased by 279 per cent over the period 1988 to 1991, reaching a value of £25m

> The more educated the household, the less likely it is to eat meat. Those who continue to buy red meat include the unemployed, the retired and those who live in cities.

However, there are indications that people tire of a vegetarian diet as they get older - a 40-year-old man-is more likely to choose a steak or a chicken wing than a 30-year-old man is. Parenthood also boosts the probability of buying meat. A 30-year-old single man with children, for example, is 16 per cent more likely to buy meat than if he is childless.

The ESRC researchers warn the meat industry that it is not factors such as price or level of income but consumer attitude that is increasingly affecting

meat-eating habits. Dr Trevor Young, one of the authors of the report, also undertook a survey on whether the bovine spongiform encephalopathy scares of 1989/90 had had a significant effect on beef consumption.

There now seems to be a popular perception that the consumption of beef has declined significantly and permanently as a result of BSE," he

concluded. The researchers found that the market share of beef was "relatively constant? until the end of the Eighties, but there was "a substantial fall and an accelerating downward trend thereafter". In order to work out whether

any connection with the fall in sales, the researchers looked at the amount of media coverage. Indian

resturants

restaurants

National newspapers in the United Kingdom published 1,565 articles on BSE between 1989 and 1993, of which 9 per cent were published by the end of 1989 and 79 per cent by the end of 1990. "We estimate that media

concern about BSE caused a "transitory" loss of 5.7 per-centage points in the market share of beef [ie from approximately 30.7 per cent to 25 per cent of the expenditure on meat] in the second quarter of 1990, the quarter in which most articles referring to BSE were printed," Dr Young said.

"We further estimate that the long-run effect is less but still substantial, with a sustained decline of some 4.5 percentage end of 1993.

#### points in the share of beef by the "It would be a personal matter for the minister concerned." public perception of BSE had (Press Secretary)

# Reluctance to react exacerbated problem

WILL BENNETT

The first case of BSE was discovered in 1985 but it was more than four years before the catly to act as pathways for the disease were banned for human

yonsumption. That crucial period provided a crucial window for infection to pass from cattle to humans. Meanwhile, the number of cattle with BSE increased, one independent estimate putting the total in Britain between 1981

and 1988 at 675,000. BSE was first officially diagnosed by the Central Veterinary Laboratory, a government that milk from such animals be tered but that farmers would sible inclusion of cattle brains in cattle under six months old.

agency which comes under the umbrella of the Ministry of tle products thought most like- Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Maff) in November 1986. But it was not made public until the following year when tests began to see whether BSE could be that BSE resulted from cattle transmitted to infected cattle's eating feed containing offal from

offspring and to other species. In April 1988, the Government appointed a committee from the Southwood recom-under Sir Richard Southwood mendations showed the Govto assess the significance of ermnent's half-hearted commit-BSE. In June that year, the ment to tackling the problem committee recommended that on 8 August, it announced that infected animals be destroyed.

made a notifiable disease, which meant farmers were required by

law to report cases to Maff. On 21 June 1988, BSE became a notifiable disease and on 18 July the feeding of cattle or sheep protein to other cattle or sheep was banned. It is believed

sheep infected with scrapic. The third measure resulting infected cattle should be slaugh-

tija a<u>nganaga sa</u>patesinya ing syalar kirawit yi in ma

disposed of, and that BSE be only get 50 per cent compensation. It was hardly an inducement to report cases of BSE and it was not until February 1990 that full compensation was introduced.

It took until December 1988 for the Government to implement Southwood's recommendation that milk from infected animals should be destroyed, and it was not until April 1989 that they acted on the suggestion that a research committee be set up to discover the full extent of the threat to animals and humans.

offals such as brains, spinal cords, gut, tonsils, thymus and spleen were banned for human consumption. It was another three months before the measure was introduced in Scotland. Offals were thought to be the most likely route for infection.

foods such as meat pies - bovinc

But eveo this measure was incomplete as cattle up to six months old were exempted because it was thought that they represented less of a hazard. Research has shown that BSE is transmissible to mice from the intestines of young cat-

On 13 November 1989 - alde, but it was not until July 1994 most 18 months after concern was first expressed about the pos- that the ban was extended to

#### What the Cabinet will be eating

Constantly reviewing the lastest research. Suppliers

Do not tend to use a lot of

beef, only as concession 10 Anglicised appetites.

Often bought frozen

A lot of beef used in

of a fairly high quality

dishes, cooked for less than Indian food

because of nature of

Chinese cooking. Usually

audited regularly.

JOJO MOYES, CLARE GARNER and ROB CRANE

John Major, Prime Minister: "Will of course continue to eat beef and serve it to his guests". And his children? "No reason to suppose that wouldn't be the case. But his children are young adults so the question doesn't really apply." (Press Secretary)

Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health: "I eat beef and my young children are eating beef."

Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence: "My famly will continue to eat beef as part of a balanced diet." Virginia Bottomley, Heritage Secretary: Said she had vis-

husband and had eaten a beefburger. John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment: "Beef will still be served. Myself and my family will continue

ited her local McDonald's in Old Kent Road yesterday with her

Employment: "Mrs Shephard's view is that the Chief Medical Officer said he will continue to eat beef as part of a balanced diet and so will she." Roger Freeman, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education and

lan Lang, President of the Board of Trade and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry: "I will continue to eat beef."

Viscount Cranborne, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords: "Yes, I am still eating beef, it is still being served and it is still part of my varied diet." Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport: "These

are obviously personal matters that we won't be dealing with from the department's point of view." (A spokesman) Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security: "I haven't

been able to have a word with him." (A spokeswoman) Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland: "He is not available for comment. He is dealing with Dunblane."

Sir Patrick Mayhew, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland: "The Secretary of State and his family continue to eat beef.

William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury: "You are not the first person to ask this question today. He's been in meetings all day. I don't think we are likely to get an answer now." (A spokesman)

# MPs condemn student loans firm 'blunders'

**CHRIS BLACKHURST** Westminster Correspondent

A powerful group of MPs yes-terday castigated the Depart-ment of Education and Employment for a series of serious errors in setting up the company to run the Government's loan scheme for students on university, polytechnic and higher education courses.

The Commons Public Accounts Select Comminee, which carries a majority of Conservative members, used unusually strong language in its report on the troubled six-year history of the Student Loans Company.

At the same time, in the appendix at the back of the committee report, it was revealed that the financially squeezed. state-owned company had also been hauled over the coals by the National Audit Office, the public finance watchdog, for making charitable donations. Officials at the Department knew about the donations but as soon as the NAO discovered them, the company was told to stop giving taxpayers' money away, Such donations, warned under Government accounting

Around 35,000 students suffered delays averaging six weeks in receiving their cheques from the company. When they tried to chase their money, they could not get through, since the switchboard was permanently iammed.

Out of 1.1 million attempted phone calls, only 45,000 succceded in getting through, something the MPs said they "deplored". They rejected the company's explanation that installing extra telephone lines would have taken too long to

solve the problem.

The company had an independent "assessor" to deal with customer complaints. He was paid a retainer of £8,000 a year and in four years only one case was referred to him. The committee said it was "concerned" that his pay was "unrelated to his caseload". Bizarrely, the company's own internal study had identified "fundamental weaknesses in planning and decision-making yet it ploughed on, regardless. The committee said it was "con-

in a major new initiative". Members were "dismayed" that student representative bodies were not consulted about the

scheme before it was set up.
It was vital, said MPs, that the DFEE took a firmer grip of the company, especially since the catalogue of blunders meant the original plan to transfer the organisation to the private sector had been temporarily shelved. Under the revised plan, the

company continues as hefore, with hanks and other financial institutions also heing encouraged to give loans. The committee said this "twin-track" approach "had introduced considerable uncertainty into the company's corporate planning". It recommended officials "enhance their monitoring of the company during this period."

At present the company reckons on writing-off £15m worth of loans where students have defaulted. MPs warned the company "there was no room for stressed that in their eyes, a student who borrowed money. then avoided repaying the loan,

## the NAO, were not allowed cerned that so little effort was had committed fraud Tory rebels fall out over divorce Bill

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES Legal Affairs Editor

The barrage of Tory opposition to the Government's Family Law Bill was in disarray last night as key Conservative family campaigners pledged their support for its central plank of no fault" divorce after a year.

The surprise declaration from Julian Brazier MP, president, and Hugh McKinney, chairman, of the Conservative Family Campaign provoked immediate condemnation from other sponsors of the organisation, but was gratefully seized upon by Chancellor's Department min-

ister in charge of the Bill. The split among the campaign's sponsors came after Mr Brazier, MP for Canterbury. and Mr McKinney circulated a letter to all Conservative MPs saying: "There is no doubt that said: "I wasn't consulted. They with further amendment, the present Bill will remove many of the iniquities of the present divorce system and create a much fairer system for children and Ireland minister, is one of a

the innocent party in divorce." In direct contradiction of calls by Tory rebels to retain adultery and unreasonable behaviour as evidence of marital hreakdown, the letter said that current law had become "totally discredited with courts granti-

ng divorces in a matter of weeks". Fault had been ahused to the extent that a totally innocent party could be sued for unreasonable behaviour, "The fault system that we have at present is manifestly unfair". In a move that took hard-line

opponents by surprise, the letter urged all MPs to support the reading on Monday, while pledging to fight for amendments on the splitting of prop-Olga Maitland, MP for Sutton and Cheam and one of the Bill's most outspoken critics, speak for themselves. My views haven't changed." Lady Olga. parliamentary private secretary to John Wheeler, the Northern

number of members of government who will use the free votes during the Bill's committee stage to attempt to retain fault and to extend the minimum 12month period of reflection and consideration to 18 months or

The Bill's opponents are incensed that the waiting period for a divorce would be be brought down from a maximum of five years in a handful of cases, and that divorce by consent - without giving a reason - will be allowed after a year

instead of the current two. Holding out another olive anch to the Government, the letter pledged support for the principle of pension splitting, but said the Lords' amendment to introduce it was "inadequately drafted". It boosts the prospects of the Government persuading a sufficient number of Tory rebels to vote against retaining the amendment- although that would be on condition that ministers gave a clear commitment to bring in their own leg-islation.



Lappel Bank: 'Classic case of development versus conservation' Photograph: John Voos

## Bird haven 'destroyed illegally

**CLARE GARNER** 

The Government illegally destroyed a haven for wildlife hy turning it into a car storage park, the European Court's advo-

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has won the first step in its battle in the Luxembourg court to establish that governments cannot take account of economic requirements when classifying Special Protection Zones or determining their boundaries.

The important test case concerns Lappel Bank on the River Medway in Kent, part of a wetland of international im-

portance" and home to rare bird species protected under European law, which was turned into a huge car park to store Japanese cars imported through the adjoining port of Sheerness.

year, the Government claimed there were "overwhelming economic reasons" for excluding Lappel Bank from the 4,600 hectares of the Medway estuary and marshes, a wetland noted for a range of wildfowl species. But lawyers for the European Commission, backing the RSPB, declared yesterday it was a classic case of "develop-

ment versus conservation. The interim finding, which is

not hinding on the full courtwhen it rules in the summer, said member states are not entitled to take account of economic requirements when classifying Special Protection Areas or determining their for the RSPB, which lost its case in the United Kingdom courts.

The final outcome will be too

late for Lappel Bank, where the

concreted over, but the victory could prevent a repeat. . Barbara Young, chief executive of the RSPB, said: "This is one in the eye for the Government. It has justifiably got a bloody nose."

# Howling sceptics Global seek to topple seek to topple Euro-temple

☐ Lamont forecasts clash with EU ☐ MP urges defiance of European Court ☐ Cook ridicules Tory 'Canutes'

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, was last night in-structed by Tory sceptics to bring down the temple" of the European Union if Britain did not get its way at the forthcoming Inter-Governmental

Conference.
Former Chancellor Norman Lamont said it seemed Britain was "headed for a clash with Europe" and hinted at withdraw-al from the EU. If differences were not reconciled, the time would come when Britain had to consider "much more radical alternatives", he told the Commons.

A full-scale debate on the

Government's approach to the conference, which opens in Turin next week, saw the sceptics howling with anger when Mr Rifkind said Britain should continue to obey the European

Court of Justice.
With the 48-hour week ruling still smarting, Mr Rifkind said the Government wanted to improve the working of the court so that it did not bring its reputation into disrepute with interpretations that went beyond what was intended when laws were framed.
But when Nicholas Budgen,

Tory MP for Wolverhampton SW, asked if he would hold open. the prospect of Britain ignoring the court if it was not reformed the Foreign Secretary replied: 'I don't believe it would be the will of the British people to disobey the law."
"Who's law?" bellowed the

sceptics. Two of them demanded Mr Rifkind make regular reports to the Commons on the IGC negotiations - a request he acceded to - though Sir Peter Tapsell, MP for Lindsey East, said they would drag on beyond the general election. "The serious negotiation won't start until then because [some states] hope they will have a Labour overnment to deal with," Sir

Peter maintained.

Bill Cash, Tory MP for Stafford, said the Government. was going into the IGC in a spirit of "appeasement" and not proposing radical plans for fear others would respond with an integrationist agenda. Patrick holls, MP for Teignbridge, said Mr Riffcind seemed to be saying there would be no sticking point. He should say to Britain's partners there was a point where "we will bring the mudflats have already been temple down" rather than give

way. Mr Rifkind said Britain favoured a "partnership of nations" and would continue to resist moves towards a "united states of Europe". He revisited the Prime Minister's "variable geometry Europe, with dif-ferent degrees of integration for different countries. The opt-out from the Social Chapter was an example and the single currency would be another.

In a more appealing section for the Euro-sceptics, he said some of the ideas for the IGC, particularly those from the Commission and the European Parliament, were driven by an "ideological mission" to maintain the momentum of integration. A clear example was more qualified majority voting (OMV) which the Government would oppose.

Those who wanted an ex-tension of QMV really wanted it for all decisions. "But they know that is non-negotiable at the present time. So they are seeking half a loaf now, hoping to secure the other half, the flour and the whole bakery. when they can.

That is the objective of the European Parliament, of the



Commission and of a significant number of continental politi cians. They want to extend QMV now as part of a long term ambition of building a fed eral Europe."

But pro-European Edwin Currie, MP for Derbyshir South, said there were some Tories "who aren't nearly a frightened of QMV as the Gov

"One of our fears if the ve toes are retained in the fort that they are at the moment i that the enlargement proces would bring in a number o small countries, who would als this side do not wish to be to by small countries new to Et rope what to do," Mrs Curri

The official opposition wa kinder to Mr Rifkind, though Robin Cook, probably did no help the Foreign Secretary standing with the sceptics by re minding them that, as back bencher, Mr Rifkind had tol the Commons he believed united states of Europe migh he "a good thing".

The Conservatives were gearing up to fight the ties election on the slogan of Bring back King Canute'," the Labour

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## Labour proposes extra lessons for sixth-formers

FRAN ABRAMS Education Correspondent

Sixth-formers could spend up to 12 hours extra in lessons each week under a Labour govern-ment, while disaffected 14-yearolds could be sent to college to take vocational courses.

Under Labour's plans for 14- to 19-year-olds, published yesterday, both A-Levels and their vocational equivalents would lead to an "Advanced Diploma" qualification. But to gain this certificate, students would be expected to take extra courses in subjects such as information technology, maths and communication skills.

The party's paper, Aiming Higher, stops short of proposing

sixth-formers in England had only 18 hours of lessons a week, while their counterparts in France and Germany had 30.

the abolition of the A-levels. Instead, it said, qualifications such as the existing General National Vocational Qualification (GNVQ) should be given parity of esteem with the academic exams. Both should lead to the Advanced Diploma, which would be equivalent to two A-Levels or one advanced GNVO, plus the extra "core

In addition to its plans for sixth-formers, Labour plans to David Blunkett, Labour's ed-reform education for 14 to 16ucation spokesman, said that year-olds. Mr Blunkett said

yesterday that 1 pupil in 10 left school with no qualifications at all, while in some schools the figure was as high as 3D per cent.

These youngsters should he freed from some of the demands of the national curriculum so that they could spend a day or more each week at col-lege, he said. They could follow vocational courses which might motivate them more effectively than academic study in which they were likely to fail.

Funding cuts have left universities with a stark choice between cutting student numbers or putting the quality of their courses at risk, the Higher Education Quality Council, set up to monitor standards, argues in a new report.



(A March hare-brained price.)

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## Global TB epidemic killing 3 million a year Annual TB deaths Beginning of Sanatoria Movement (1900) WHO declares global emergency (1993)

Tuberculosis is now killing more people than at any other time in history, the World Health Organisation warned yesterday, with one person infected every second and nearly 3 million deaths annually.

Scientists predict that up to a half a billion people will be infected with TB in the next 50 vears if present rates continue. And they say that growing numbers are developing multi-drug resistant forms which can cost \$250,000 (£170,000) per pa-tient to treat, compared with less

than \$100 for non-resistant states there are 10 cases of CJD forms, and are often incurable.

Not only has TB returned. it has upstaged its own horrible legacy," said Dr Hiroshi Nakaima, director-general of the

Paul Nunn, chief of research for the WHO's global TB programme, said the threat was far worse than that posed by the possible link between mad cow discase and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. While the UK population should be legitimately concerned about CJD, he said, the scare should be put in

perspective.
"The Government's report

which may be linked to mad cow

disease. There are 3 million deaths a year from TB. That is a rather larger number." Increased travel to and from countries where TB is endomic and control is poor, migration:

political upheavals, with the

accompanying collapse of public health infrastructure; and the growth of homelessness and poverty, are responsible for the re-emergence of the disease in the developed world.

Outbreaks of multi-drugresistant TB have now been reported recently in London, Milan, New York City. Chicago.

cities in India, Thailand, South Africa, and Pakistan.

Mass screening - chest X-rays were a useful public health weamon against TB until the 1950s - is once again being made available by charities. such as Crisis, to high-risk groups such as the homeless. Speaking at a press confer-

ence in London vesterday. Dr Arata Kochi, director of the WHO's global programme, said that many politicians were "still behaving as if TB did not exist despite the alarming figures.

The bad news is the TB endemic is moving faster than we the spread of TB has yet to be understood by many leaders. Governments in wealthy and developing countries alike arc still not responding to the warnings that their people are at serious risk . . . Other diseases such as flesh-cating bacteria, plague, and the Ebola virus -

have captivated the public's at-

tention, and are higher on the public policy agenda than TB." Dr John Moore-Gillion. chairman of the British Lung Foundation, said that TB in London had risen by 5fl per cent since 1987, and there were now "an extra 8,000 unexpected new

Atlanta, Paris, Estonia, and are. The frightening extent of cases" in Britain. "Cases multi-drug-resistant TB occur scores, not thousands or hu dreds of thousands. Will we smore? If we let our guard dow then yes we will," he said. Better surveillance, improv

diagnostic testing and mo powerful drugs, were urgent needed, Dr Moore-Gillon sai "We need greater public, or fessional, and political awar ness. Predictions made in il, 1950s that TB would be crac cated from developed coun tries and there would be greprogress in the Third World controlling it were horrifand devastatingly wrong."

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# BSkyB linked to rescue plan for Ally Pally

BSkyB, the satellite network, is believed to be involved in secret talks which could lead to it being part of a takeover deal for the debt-ridden Alexandra Palace, the birthplace of BBC television, in north London.

Although BSkyB has denied it is directly involved in talks. It is understood that Haringey council, trustee of the palace, wants to include the satellite network in any final deal with one of three different consortia with which it is negotiating. Any deal would be worth several million pounds and is said to involve BSkyB building a television studio.

The move would provide BSkyB with a prestigious broadcasting site and generate enormous publicity for any future development at the palace, which would benefit Haringey.

The council is anxious to proceed with a moneyspinning private development to make the 123-year-old Ally Pally commercially viable, helping to clear its £55m debt, the largest deficit facing any localauthority in the country.

Haringey has shortlisted three developers and the Inde-pendent understands that a BSkyB initiative would com-plement whichever scheme is selected on 10 May. However, any development

needs parliamentary approval and, to reach that stage, liability for the deht - at present spibe settled. The council, seeking to avoid the full debt, is under pressure from Sir Nicholas Lyall, the Attorney General, to show it has managed the palace broadcasting," he said. affairs prudently.

ing and 220-acre park at Muswell Hill through a charitable trust since taking it over from the Greater London Council in 1980. The BSkyB op-

of the development steering committee last Monday, according to a source close to the council leader Toby Harris, who refused to confirm or deny the satellite network was involved: "The council has approached a large number of organisations about the possibility of their in-

opment of the palace. Details are confidential," he said. BSkyB said Chris Mackenzie its general manager who would oversee such a scheme, had not talked to Haringey.

However, the source claimed

volvement in the future devel-

the council has held meetings with BSkyB representatives. They have been talking about a TV studio and broadcasting museum, The attraction for Sky is Ally Pally's a great site for outside broadcasts. There is prestige attached to it - one in the eye for the BBC."

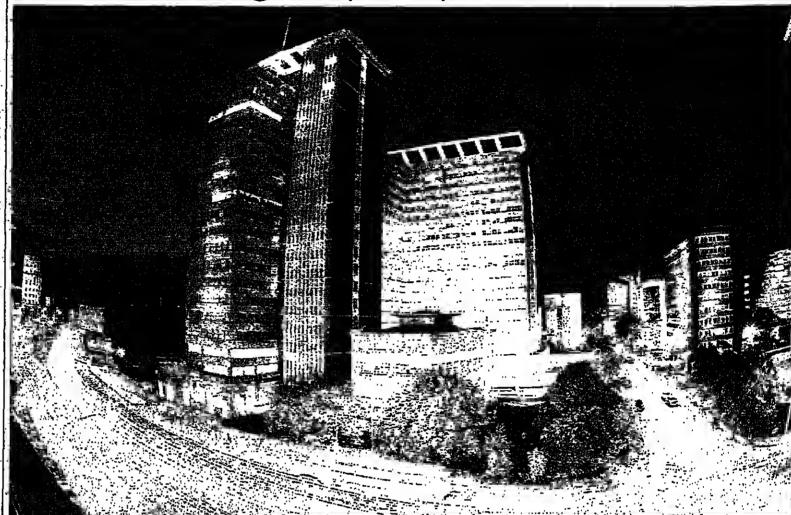
The three developers shortlisted last month are due to submit detailed proposals by the end of April. The Independent has seen preliminary proposals. A bid from Mercury Group, believed to be worth more than £25m, includes an autopark, a huge site where customers can huy and test-drive cars, a fu-turistic lake and an underground shopping centre. Morrison Developments and

Champions Leisure propose a multi-activity leisure centre. Michael Moss, managing director of Alexandra Development, said he wanted to give the palace back to the people by working with the lo-cal community. "Our proposal includes an exhibition hall, cinema, hotel and museum of

This is not the first time Haringey has run the build- Haringey has tried to extricate itself from the palace. Schemes have included indoor real-snow ski slopes but every plan has been blocked because of the

debt liability.

## Town sets shining example in quest for millennium cash



Croydon, symbol of suburban mediocrity, is trying to brighten its image with what it describes as 'the most adventurous building lighting scheme ever staged in a British town'. The display – on show tonight and tomorrow – is part of the south London borough's bid for Millennium Commission funding

## Green group warns on environment

Environmental standards in the British Isles and surrounding seas continue to deteriorate in spite of growing public concero about green issues, according to a report published yesterday. After the Government re-

leased its Sustainable Development Indicators last week, Green Gauge, an alliance of environmental organisations, announced its indicators, noting six

areas of public concern. Speaking at the launch, the environmentalist Jonathon Porritt, said: "Our environment is getting worse, even the Government's figures say so. There must now be immediate action to stem the tide of environmental degradation in the UK" Six key areas highlighted in the Green Gauge 96 report:

100 species have become extinct in the UK this century, Intensive agriculture has seen the loss of farmland flowers from 92 per cent of their traditional habitat and a decline in birds such as

skylarks. ■ Disappearing countryside: nural land has been urbanised at the rate of more than 11,000 hectares a year with traditional countryside features such as hedgerows still being lost.

from 45 per cent to 60 per cent since 1988, lack of water has become a threat to many others; 75 per cent of low rivers suffering from over-abstraction await long-term solutions. ■ Transport: motor vehicle use

Fresh water: while the length

of good quality rivers has risen

is still rising as public transport use declines. Exhaust emissions cut air quality and contribute to the problem of climate change.

Coastal and marine: overfishing is one of the most serious problems facing the marine environment and the UK Gov ernment has failed to meet EU targets to cut its fishing fleet. Britain's impact abroad: less than I per cent of timber and pulp imported has been certifled sustainable; overseas aid stands at 0.31 per cent of GDP, well below the UN target of 0.7 per cent.

## New code issued on coma patients

New guidelines to help docto treating patients in comas we? published yesterday by the Royal College of Physicians. h The move follows height ened public concern abo

the ethics of stopping the treament of patients being kept ali There have been a number reports of patients in a pers tent vegetative state (PV

waking up or showing signs The college said the guid lines were drawn up before the recent case of a businessma

who started communicating with hospital staff after being PVS for seven years. They would be review

igain once the clinical details the case had been studied. The guidelines followed

ecommendation from t House of Lords Select Cormittee on Medical Ethics th PVS should be defined and code of practice developed. They recommend that a d

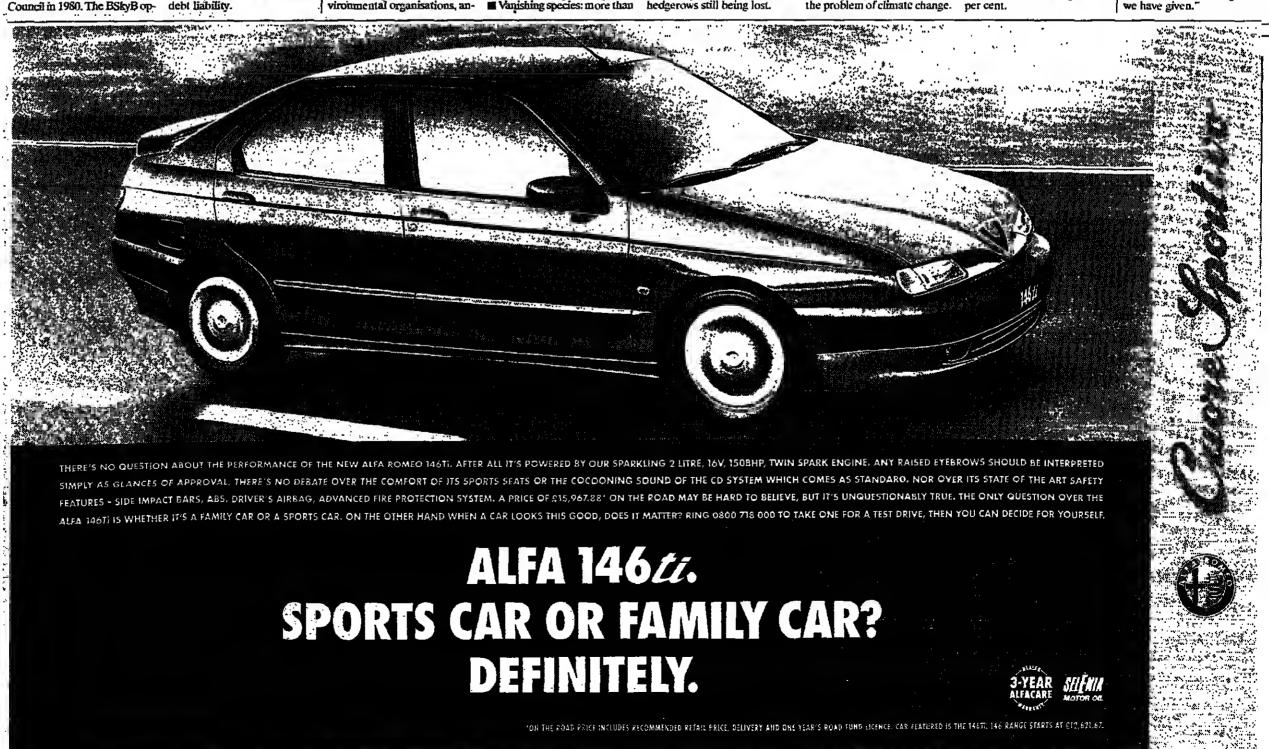
agnosis of PVS should only made when a patient has bein a continuing vegetative sta for more than 12 months af a head injury, or six months to lowing other causes of hra damage. A continuing veget tive state was said to occ when the patient failed to sho signs of recovery after mo than four weeks.

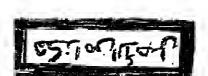
Professor David Londo registrar of the college, adm ted that the guidelines m have to be altered in light of il latest case.

Our guidance is based the best evidence available to at the time and is intended help doctors by differentiation the clinical states in line wi current knowledge," he said "When we have seen il clinical details of this rece

case, we will review the guidan-

we have given."





PEOPLE

Whither

Windsor

Kazimierz Jagiellono for. The 15th-century Po

king is not as familiar to th of our children who still le about kings and queens as, Richard III. Yet he is an cestor not only of our o Queen but of her husband.

one would suggest that I double dose of Polish ger could be a significant factor the tendency of some membe of the Queen's family to sel destruct. Nevertheless, there; something in the chemistry o the Queen's imminent trip to

Poland that smacks of those

nasty and obscure family quar-

rels known more for their con-

sequences than for their origins. Lech Walesa, the former president who has long thought

of himself as King of Poland and therefore also related to Kaz-

imierz, Elizabeth and Philip, has

not yet replied to an invitation

to meet the Queen at a lunch at

the Hotel Bristol, in Warsaw, on

The explanation being put about is that he is refusing to

come within spitting distance of the man who usurped his

throne, the former communist

Aleksander Kwasniewski. An al-

ternative version now heard in

Warsaw is that he is waiting till

the Queen acknowledges that

they share the same royal blood

and starts to invite him to those

due to blast off on the shuttle Atlantis today - the Russians

waiting for her will expect her to keep the place clean and tidy.

"We anticipate that the fans

will be taken care of in a more timely manner, because we

Lech

# Chechens' terror at Russian bombers

IL REEVES

re's how they tell the story Catyr-Yurt. a farming village the plains of Chechnya. Not g ago a Russian general m the 58th Army, an angryking character, arrived in the lds on the outskirts and nanded to see the elders. He had an ultimatum: the vile had a day to hand over 100 apons and 10 prisoners of war ne would bombard the place, ich was surrounded hy his

ks. It was as simple and as

ital as that. How would you feel in my ce?" asked Ali Bashavev. mayor, as he sat with a up of worried residents in a nd's home, "We can't sleep ier night or day, because ry minute we expect them to n fire." As he spoke, the winvs rattled with the tremors of earty bombing as the Rusis embarked on yet another empt to force a Chechen amunity to bend to their will. errified that they would re the fate of others shelled the Russians, the village t a group of 100 locals, stly women, to reason with general. They wept as they nt more than an hour imring him not to act. It was y after an official from the scow-backed regional govment intervened with Gen-

Vyacheslav Tikhomirov.

republic, that Katyr-Yurt

ured a reprieve, albeit haps temporary.

ssia's military commander in

conducting its business in Chechnya. Russia has done its hest to conceal its activities from the world by trying to har journalists and international aid agencies from access to the

and Stary Achkhoi. for example

Gennady Zyuganov. The president claims to have

worked out a peace plan with his Security Council, but is keeping it under wraps until this weary republic itself, his army and the Chechen government a settlement by using a combi-nation of bombs and threats. three-way peace agreements with the Russian military and



Spring offensive: A Russian soldier fighting near Grozny as the Kremlin stepped up its battle against rebel forces

the pro-Russian Chechen authorities. The documents require elders to hand over all weapons in the village and to agree to expel any separatist fighters in their midst.

Those who co-operate receive a promise from the Russians that they will not attack. unless the agreement is breached: those who do not get shelled. As one diplomat put it: "It is like saying: 'If you sign this agreement, we won't kill you'."

of the dire consequences of incurring Russia's wrath. A reminder came when the 58th Army tore into Sernovodsk in western Chechnya last week. looting and rampaging through the village, which had already been bombed heavily, reducing a mosque to rubble. Houses were stripped bare, shot up, and burnt. Media and aid workers were harred.

The Russians said that the attack was to flush out rehels. But the mayor, Boris Kiev, claims there were none - not least because he already had an swimming across a river. "I was unable to help my brothers and sisters because I believed the

> nomenon that is occurring across the war zone. The point of forcing villages to sign agree-ments appears to be to isolate

the rehels, and to allow the Kremlin to tell Russian voters that peace has been restored in Chechnya. But the effect is the opposite: anti-Russian opinion is growing stronger, including among opponents of the rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev. With this comes greater support for outright independence - a status that the Kremlin is

unwilling to grant Chechnya. Chechens on both sides complain about the Russian presence, accusing the military of failing to distinguish between rebels and ordinary citizens. The deputy prime minister of

the Chechen government claims that Moscow's troops have been looting, disarming police and detaining ordinary people. For months stories have cir-

culated of the horrors of Russian filtration camps. So, too, have allegations that the Russians are refusing to allow any men between the age of 14 and 55 to escape from villages which they bombard. All this fuels the hatred of

Russia, "Even the people who were pro-Russian simply because they hated Dudayev so much are reduced to total de-spair now by the situation," said Roman Wasilewski, of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. "They have seen that the Russians coming in makes things unbelievably worse, worse even than

how they could ever find the 100 family conferences on that grand ongoing theme. Whither handed in more than 50 as part of a peace accord. Now

arms for food.

doing the right thing, the village mayor, Mr Bashayev, is not impressed. Some five decades their worst nightmares."

Unsurprisingly, this view has taken hold along the muddy lanes of Katyr-Yurt. The elders

Their worst nightmares."

after his people were deported on masse by Stalin, he says lanes of Katyr-Yurt. The elders

Communist in the Kremlin. after his people were deported en masse by Stalin, he says he would now like to see a

guns that the Russian general demanded. Only last year, they

the Windsors? they say they are raising funds to buy some more to hand in Male chauvinism may have been driven to those sad weapons that they expect to acquire, via a middle-man, from rainforest husbands come home the Russian army, whose hunfrom a hard day's hunting exgry and ill-paid soldiers sell pecting the wife to be ready with the pipe and slippers. But vic-And while Mr Yeltsin's strattory on earth is not the end of the story. When the American astronaut Shannon Lucid visits egy may belp convince Russians outside the Caucasus that he is the Mir space station - she is

know that women love to clean," said General Yuri Glazkov, deputy commander of the Gagarin Cosmonant Train-ing Centre. Ms Lucid, 53, is a But it has retained symbolic imoriginal female astronauts.

For all the myths of female equality under communism, the Russians are slow in changing their attitudes. Svetlana Savitskaya was presented with an apron by her male colleagues when she arrived in 1982 at the Salyut space station, and the British chemist Helen Sharman had to listen to her Mir commander complain in 1991 that space flight is "hard work. not a woman's work".

A man with a more subtle appreciation of the role of women is Musa Komeagac, the Turkish waiter who married the 13-year-old Essex girl Sarah Cook. The lovers' story has been turned into a four-part tele-vision film by the Turkish ATV channel, with the groom playing himself. Mr Komeagac, who has become a celebrity in his homeland, was paid \$8,600 by ATV, which will broadcast the series next month. "My only intention is to show everyone how much I love Sarah," he said from his home in Kahraman-10 months in prison.

James Roberts

#### IN BRIEF

#### eneral Motors strikes deal to end strike

rton, Ohio - General Motors Corp and the United Auto Work-Union reached a tentative agreement yesterday to end a strike t crippled the car-maker's production, the union said. The strike I closed 26 of GM's 29 assembly plants.

#### astguards find lost Russian explorer scow - A US Coasi Guard plane yesterday spotted a Russexplorer and his two sons who became lost in a blizzard while

ng to ski across the Bering Strait. sco owner seeks forgiveness for fire nila — The owner of a Manila disco where 151 people died

#### he Philippines' biggest fire disaster pleaded for forgiveness said it was "a freak accident". Hermilo Ocampo presented

iself to the police to deny he had gone into hiding Reuter geria welcomes rights observers 305 - Nigeria yesterday welcomed a United Nations plan 10 d a mission to look into the trial and execution of a dissident

#### ter and eight other Nigerian activists, and to study the miligovernment's promise to restore democracy. pandreou defies odds to leave hospital iens — The former Greek prime minister and Socialist party nder, Andreas Papandreou, defied the odds yesterday, leav-

hospital after a four-month stay during which he hovered near th and was forced to resign. yptian exorcists jailed for killing girl

iro — A court in northern Egypt sentenced four members of nall Muslim fundamentalist group to 1ft years in jail with hard our yesterday for killing a 10-year-old girl they were trying to

#### ilt suspects held during full moon

mobile -- Fearing another mass suicide, 200 police officers conted a sweep of suspected members of a doomsday cult, deting six people. Police said 50 people were questioned in the ration, which coincided with the full moon

## Guns fall silent in Guatemala truce

PHIL DAVISON Latin America Correspondent

One of the modern world's longest guerrilla wars, the 35-year-old Guatemalan insurgency, could soon be over after the government and left-wing rebels separately declared an open-ended truce.

In a goodwill gesture ahead of peace talks next week, the guerrillas of the National Revolutionary Unity of Guatemala group said they would "temporarily suspend all offensive military operations" and fight

only if attacked by the army. It was the first time they had declared an indefinite ceasefire. rather than one pegged to a specific event such as the recent presidential elections or last month's visit by the Pope.

President Alvaro Arzu, who took office in January, immediately responded by ordering the army to hold its fire. He was travelling to the Ixcan highland region yesterday, one of the zones of most intense fighting in past years, to ensure the troops got the message and complied.

The ceasefire appeared to reflect a new trust between government and rebels since Mr Arzu, a 50-year-old former travel agent of part-Russian extraction, took office. He has pledged to end the conflict by

the summer. tral America. An estimated 100,000 Guatemalans are known to have been killed while

appearances were blamed on

rebels blocking highways and blowing up electricity pylons. proceeds of extortion.

## Serbs vent their fury against US diplomat

Vukovar - Angry Serbs cursed the US amhassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, and her motorcade was stoned when she toured the last Serb-held area of Croatia

vesterday.
The incident happened when Ms Albright, whose outspoken approach has led Serbs to con-sider her their biggest American enemy, took a walk on the streets of Vukovar, a Serb-held

was shelled into ruins by the Yugoslav army in late 1991.

Angry Serbs shouted: You hitch", "Go back to Croatia". and "You fascist", when Ms Albright reached an open-air market in Vukovar. She soon returned to her car as the crowd started stoning the motorcade. Two windows were hroken in one of the cars accompanying Ms Albright's, There were no in-

Ms Albright played down the incident, saying it did not

and that the leadership is still committed to the peace process. Vukovar and the surrounding

area is to be peacefully handed back to Croatia within two years, according to an agreement reached last year. Meanwhile, it was announced yesterday that a suspected mass grave has been found in a deep

cave in north-west Bosnia, near one of the worst Serb death camps. Investigators say it could contain the remains of up to 120 Muslims and Crosts. To conceal the grave, some-one threw the bodies of animals and ruhhish on top of the human remains and set off an explosion at the cave, a Bosnian war crimes researcher says.

The Bosnian government war crimes committee, which found the site, near the village of Lusci Palanka, said the animal remains were a ploy by the Serbs to mask the cave's horrors.

A videotape shows the inside of a deep cave containing piles of bones. One of the researchers was shown holding what he

the cave has been rumed by a hig detonation . . . by whoever tried to cover the traces of this crime," he said. The cave is near Omarska, one of the most notorious Serb-run camps during the war. The detention camp was closed in late 1992, follow ing an international outcry over pictures of emaciated inmates. Experts say 11.500 people are still missing from Omarska.

Another Bosnian war crimes re-searcher, Refik Hodzic, said:

The problem is that the site of

To Walnurth from Washir

# Pride and prejudice at heart of German dilemma

the Bavarian march struck Hilde Kutritz clasped her gitankard of heer and threw ard stare towards the manthing on to the stage. Along 1 2,000 others. Mrs Kutritz come to hear for herself 1 Karl-Heinz Schneider. didate to he mayor, would for Augshurg, 30 miles west he Bavarian capital, Munich.

OFFICE...

who knows us, who we know and can trust," she said. "We are fed up with the politicians far away, they cannot help."

Around her, the crowd was cheering. Mr Schneider was talking of the town's loss of jobs, of immigration and new cheap labour coming into Germany from eastern Europe.

He spoke of the need to build new industry and roads. The problems he raised are problems facing Europeans We want someone who everywhere. But not once lerstands our problems - did Mr Schneider mention

THE JOYS (AND OTHERWISE) OF WORKING IN A MODERN

THE OLIVER & CLAIRE STRIP



"Europe". Europe is not a vote-winner in Bavaria. Germany, Bavarians com-

plain, is paying for the rest of Europe. And they fear plans for a single currency, "What will happen to the deutschmark." What about my savings?" asked an elderly woman. "Brussels can do nothing for ordinary people." said Alfred Ebert, a retired textile worker. "We have lost

thousands of jobs in Augsburg." "We have to fight for Bavaria. We are a kingdom. King Ludwig II is here in our hearts, "declared the manager of the bar. pointing to a badge of his hero-King pinned to his lederhosen.

Such displays of nationalist sentiment, combined with open scepticism about Europe, are a recent phenomenon in Germany. Germans have always be-

as Europe's higgest power, liv-ing at peace with its neighbours. could only be secured as part of political and economic union. If the fears pronounced in an Augsburg beer-tent suggest that the pro-European consensus is collapsing, then Europe's lead-ers should take note.

It is no surprise that Germany's suspicions of Europe should erupt most virulently in Bavaria. Known as the Texas of Germany, the "free state" of Bayaria, twice the size of Belgium, has always defended its independence, and boasts that it existed as an entity well before France or Germany.

After the Second World War the region was still largely agrarian, but fought hard to build up its prosperity as a centre of the motor industry and high-tech engineering. These days, the neon signs for BMW, Siemens and Mercedes are as much a part of Munich's skyline as the

onion domes and spires. Now, however, as elsewhere

in Germany, unemployment is

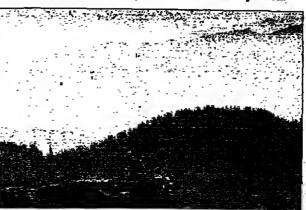
rising, reaching 15 per cent in

relocating to escape the effects whether they he directors of of the strong mark and to take multi-national companies. advantage of cheap labour. Siemens has cut 20,000 jobs

in the last two years, launching 30 joint ventures in China, and new plants in eastern Europe. BMW has opened a plant in South Carolina, as well as plants in eastern Europe, and it has plans for a factory in Vietnam. The people feel at the mercy of decision-makers far away, uncertain monetary union.

bureaucrats in Brussels, or even the government in Bonn.
There is little doubt that am-

iety about the single currency is the prime source of concern. Bavarians are not so much "anti-European" as fearful of where Enrope is leading. Few have anything good to say about sinking a strong mark into an



Bavaria: the region where German suspicions of the lieved that their post-war future certain pockets. Companies are European Union have erupted most violently

With its long eastern border, Bavaria always saw the political value of European integration, as a safeguard against communism. Yet they are also swift to say that, if Germany were really to face a new military threat from the east, the country would look to the US - not Eu-

rope - for ultimate protection. In principle, Bavaria sup-ports the EU's plans to accept new members among its east-em European neighbours as a means of furthering stability. At the same time, however, there is deep anxiety about economic competition. "My farmers are already not happy," says Mr Bocklet, citing 20 per cent loss of income during last year's devaluation of the Italian lire. "Poland already produces as many polatoes as the EU put together - and at half the cost."

Porcelain and textile factories in the region have been put out of business by competitors to the east, and there are constant fears about immigration.

Bavaria has taken in nearly

half the 300,000 refugees who fied to Germany from the for-

mer Yugoslavia, "Immigration." Foreign policy. These are areas where the EU should act. But: on these issues, it does nothing," says Heinz Mittendorfer at the regional council.
For ordinary Bavarians, the

frustrations point to the need to snatch back power for their re-gions. All the German states already insist on scrutinising HU legislation, each baving an of-fice in Brussels, but for Bevaria this is no longer good enough.
There must he bottom up

federalism, they say.

The state has even put its own. paper to the inter-government tal conference starting in Rumi next week, calling for new into its on Brussels' powers under the "subsidiarity" rules. ----

You must understand we also not nationalistic," says, Man. Bocklet. "That is a very had. word here. But we are close to our culture to our Bavariai roots. We do not need a polite ical union by integration - bits by common interest. On the point, even John Major, who proposés a partnership of na-tions", might agree.

As the main who since of the profit

homhardment zones. But it is clear that Moscow is in breach of its commitments to human rights, as a new member of the Council of Europe. In the last few days, Russia has been hombarding the village of Samashki, where its troops conducted a massacre last year, and where thousands of residents are now said to be in hiding. Other settlements - Orekhovo

 have also been under fire. So what is Russia up to? Crucial is the presidential election, now only three months away. President Yeltsin has committed himself to ending the war before polling day. He fears he may lose if he fails to do so, although he is now reducing some of the large lead enjoyed in the polls by the Communist frontrunner,

month's end. Yet, in the warare already engaged in securing Many of Chechnya's 420 villages are being ordered to sign The Chechens are well aware

agreement with the Russians not to allow any fighters into town. "I now wish I had invited the fighters in," he said, after escaping his village hy

Russian propaganda."
His remarks illustrate a phe-

The Guatemalan conflict, initially a civil war pitting poverty-stricken Mayan Indians against a ruthless army and a wealthy elite, is the last remaining guerrilla insurgency of many which have plagued Cen-

a further 40,000 "disappeared". Most of the deaths and dis-

the army which largely crushed the rebels in the early Eighties with a "scorched-earth" policy of burning down entire Indian villages to flush out the rebels and discourage their supporters. Since the Generals stood down, and democracy was restored in 1986, the conflict has been little more than a nuisance to most Guatemalans, with

portance for the poor, indigenous population in whose name the rebels fought. While rarely taking on the army in recent years, the guer-

rillas have maintained political influence in remote areas, financing themselves with millions of dollars in "war tax" extorted from ranchers and other sources. Some Guatemalans fear that, even after a peace agreement, some rebels may continue to rule the roost in highland areas, living off the

maras. Mr Komeagac was jailed on charges of having sex with a minor then released pending tri-al next month. He faces up to





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PEOPLE

As the man who says he invented the Walkman fights on for a slice of the profits, Peter Popham analyses its mass appeal

# A walk on the private side

The Court of Appeal yesterday threw out Andreas Pavel's claim to be the father of the Walkman, and with it his attempt to cut himself a slice of Sony's corporate fortune. With this decision, the British leg of Pavel's epic legal hattle is prohably over (his lawyers have 30 days to decide whether or not to appeal to the House of Lords). But next month battle will commence in the United

Pavel, 49, youngest son of a wealthy German industrialist, patented a ver-sion of the personal stereo in 1977, two years before Sony launched the Walkman. Pavel's device (see the diagram, right) consists of a sort of Browning belt from which hang the tape player and cases for hatteries and cassettes. He claims to have dreamt it up on a walking holiday in the French Alps in 1972. He had prototypes made up by engineers and raved about the "psychological effect" of listening to music on the device. "All of a sudden, everything around you begins to move to the music." He says that he told a Sony employee about his device, and that the idea was stolen

Sony went on to make more than 150 million Walkmans, and is still producing more than a million a month; the device has earned the company at least £3bn, according to conservative estimates. Pavel went on to a life of tireless litigation, exhausting his £1m inheritance in the attempt to prove his

The closest he has come to success was when Sorry paid him a £50,000 fee to use the so-called Talkline feature, which allows someone to talk to the listener. But further success that would bring him a royalty from Sony's: earnings, which could be worth tens of millions of pounds, continues to. clude him. The appeal judges supported the opinion of the original trial that Pavel's idea was "obvious" and "lacked novelty", and that his original patent was therefore invalid.

Yet Pavel's lonely and quixotic struggle has drawn attention to a humble, technologically insignificant device that sneaked into our lives nearly 20 years ago. It is difficult now to cast ourselves imagina-When a poster of the film Withnail & I appeared recently with one of the pointed out that it was 10 years out

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Pavel may indeed have devised a personal stereo as early as he claims: there is nothing original or remarkable about the technology it uses. But the belief that such a device could appeal to a vast market was a strictly Japanese one. Its invention and marketing were a triumph - the greatest triumph to date - of Japanese aesthetic values over Western civilisation. The only comparable event was the arrival in Europe in the 1860s of Japanese ukivo-e prints, and the convulsions these brought about in the ideas and techniques of European painters.

The Walkman emerged from the modern Japanese preoccupation with the small, the light and the compact. The phrase in Japanese is keihaku tansho, literally "thin and light, convenient and small", and it encompasses most of the electronics products by which Japan has made its mark oo the West. The concepts themselves are rooted in the cramped, congested surroundings of Japanese life, and the need to devise products that will work in such environments. "Miniaturisation and compactness have always

The first sensational success of Sony's keihaku tansho thinking was the transistor radio. The transistor itself was developed in Bell's famously inventive laboratories in the United States. But Bell could see no use for it beyond hearing aids, and was happy to license it to Sony.

The first such radio came on to the market in 1955. So closely did it become identified with Japan that President de Gaulle later derided Japan's visiting prime minister as a "transistor radio salesman".

But the success of the Walkman is more interesting and has a deeper cultural significance than the miniature radio. The transistor was just a big radio made small; the Walkman was

#### The case against the personal stereo

listen to music on the move, it has also had drawbacks, mainly through alleged damage to bearing and the invasion of other people's personal space."

ber 1992: The British Tinnitus Association calls for health warnings on per-

1992 a fed-up commuter travelling from London's Liverpool Street station to Morwich is applauded by fellow travellers after he cuts through the headphones cord of a teeringe traveller. Lizzle King, a passenger, spoke for her com-penions: "The pounding best had been going on for 20 minutes. He was just gob-smarked. He set there staring at the severed cebles."

3 September 1993: Suinch of the Sound, Noise and Hearing campaign that warns Daiking of the risk of ear damage and Trontus as a result of listening to loud music. District of the risk of ear damage and trimitus as a result of listering to loud music. David Neivern, a Reading University specialist and co-author of the education pack tested by the Health and Safety Commission and the Royal Society for the Presention of Accidents, says: "At two-thirds volume a Welkman is equivalent to some thing between operating a chansaw and a garden strimmer." At full volume, a persungle steep sequivalent to listering to a road, drill with no ear protection.

18 September, 1993: a coroner vents of the dangers of personal stereos when he records a sendict of accidental death on Lee Reynoldson, a 20-year-old jogger who ran in front of a car while listening to music on his neadphones.

1 September, 1994: Andrew Dunn, a student who refuses to turn down the volume on his personal stereo when asked to do so by fellow train passengers, is fixed 1200-05 magistrates in fork WPC Fiona Hallday told the count. It was the 1904-1996: France prepares to ben personal stereos that exceed 100 declares blowing medical evidence, which found that listening to found music through eapphones was producing, a generation of deaf people."

Morita, the co-founder and former chairman of Sony, who credits himself

The early products of Morita's company were very different: their protagonists wearing a Walkman, it first tape recorder, painstakingly took a while before somebody copied from an American model, was a monster weighing 100lbs. But as a new face in a Japanese electronics field already dominated by firms such as Matsushita, the company behind hrands such as Panasonic and Technics, Sony's only hope of success was to do that most un-Japanese thing - sonal stereo is technologically "obviinvent: And it did this by developing a nose for products that would fit into Japanese lives a little more delicately than a 100lh tape recorder. judgment's words, "Although the Japanese.

appealed to the Japanese," says Akio a public activity rendered almost completely private. The Walkman meant that for a small price, anyone could with inventing the Walkman. "Our temporarily block out the public boxes have been made to nest into one realm, retreat to their own cave. another, our fans to fold, our art rolls wherever they might happen to be in

> For some it was a liberator, turning long boring train or plane journeys into opportunities for musical ecstasy. For others, though, especially those trapped on Tube trains next to deaf hip-hop enthusiasts, it was a frightening short cut to social autism.

The crucial fact about the Walkman, what led to Pavel's appeal being ous" and therefore does not amount to an invention - and that its huge success does not alter this fact. In the

Walkman was a great commercial success, to rely upon that success to support invention is fallacious." In other words, it was a triumph not of technology but of vision.

The genesis of the Walkman has entered the realm of myth. Aside from Pavel's account of simple theft, there are at least three versions of how Morita dreamt it up. According to one, he wanted to listen to music while playing tennis, and instructed his engineers to come up with some-thing that would permit him to do so. In another, he observed Sony's cofounder, Masaru Ibuka, staggering from room to room under the weight of a conventional tape recorder so that he could have music wherever he went, and Morita took pity on him. In the third, it was a question of shutting up the kids' rock music at home.

Whichever is correct, it betrays a peculiarly modern Japanese urge to shut oneself away, beyond the reach of an increasingly pestering, intrusive, rackety world, Love hotels, karaoke boxes, capsule hotels and hand-held televisions all testify to the same need, visual reality headsets are per-haps the closest the concept has been taken to perfection.

The Walkman was always a more readily accepted proposition in the Japanese city, where shutting oneself away has long been the preferred method of resistance to a world of tightly packed strangers. This is why Japanese train passengers hlithely read pornographic comics, or sleep, or pick their noses, oblivious to those around them. The Walkman simply made the solitude more complete, more easily attained.

But in the West it posed problems; not just noise, hut also a simmering sense of insult, indignation that people should excommunicate themselves from the community so simply and completely. What if there were an accident, if somebody were hurt or in need of directions? The man with the Walkman was morally

The anger which that absence prompted explains the cheer that greeted the tabloid story of the commuter who severed his noisy neighbour's Walkman cord with scissors. the story said, but you are quite readily reeled back in again. Both the anger and the snipping would have been unthinkable in Japan.

But gradually over the past 17 years we have become inured to these insults to our sense of community; our sense of community itself is dimin-ished as a result. The absent presence of the Walkmen is now taken for granted, as an alternative (and eminently understandable) way of existing in society, part in, part out. In this subtle way, we truly have turned

Great patent wars of the past

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1873-1880: between 1868 a 1900, America issued 756 patents designs for barbed wire. One barb device sparked seven years of hits tion when three pioneer barbed-w inventors each applied for pater within four months of one another. 1971-1973: John Atanasoff, an Astrican engineer, was named the true ventor of the electronic digital comput unearthed his work while preparing defence against patent infinigeme charges from its rivals Sperry Rand. 1985-1992: a Worcestershire farm Alan Brazier, received a severi-figur sum when he beat Hoover in court ov a patent infringement. Vax, a revolutio in 1968, is now an £85m business 1987-1990: Invented 350 years as case between Screwpull makers Halle Company and Brabantia, Screwpull wa very different from the invention of the Birmingham engineer Sir Edward Thon 1995-1996; Breton Yves Renaut de Igned an oyster-opening device only t tween cyster-cultivators to whom he so a licence to exploit the patent and th

dreamt up his portable Price of a Mars bar pence Cost of basic model Sony Walkman in the UK - 40 **Number of Walkmer** the world, millions

# DIARY .

#### To Walworth, love from Washington

They say one of the first indications of an opposition party being taken seriously is when foreign governments start having secret dealings with it. In which



case I have news that may alarm Mr Major a little. A confidential fax has come into my pos-session in which a first secretary at the American emhassy gave Labour's Northern Ireland

spokeswoman, Mo Mowlam (above), precise details of Gerry Adams itinerary in America earlier this month. With Ms Mowlam also visiting America, an unplanned collision between the two

could have been embarrassing. Perhaps, with Tony Blair visiting President Clinton next month, the Americans are keen to build closer relations with Her Majesty's Opposition. Perhaps they think it won't be Her Majesty's Opposition much longer.

I wondered aloud to the sender of the fax at the American embassy whether this was true, but he took fright and said he couldn't say anything at all about the fax and then rang off. He must have had another appointment. Dr Mowlam's office was also otherwise engaged. I suppose secret faxes come under the heading of "special relationship".

#### Sorry, that's the wrong sort of excuse

British Rail's excuses - or should that be Railtrack's excuses - for the absence of trains grow ever more impressive.
The West Anglia (whose sense of geography is as bad as everything else)
Great Northern line into King's Cross has had a particularly shabby couple of months, which has been acknowledged by posters of apology in the stations. But

nothing - not falling leaves, not the wrong sort of snow, not even slippery But he had little to report. So far, wrong sort of snow, not even slippery rails - has topped the excuse offered by the harassed ticket clerk at the village station in Knebworth this week. "I can't say when the next train to London will be I'm afraid. Someone has stolen the overhead cables."

Is this the politics of plurality?

Robin Cook, the Shadow Cabinet's chief advocate of electoral reform, is also in charge of Labour's policy-making machine. So Labour's electoral reformers were keen to hear from him at their

except to remark that Peter Mandelson, the MP for Hartlepool, was a "proper and adequate metaphor" for the Labour leader. And Mr Mandelson has just announced his partial conversion to the cause. (It is as a proper and adequate metaphor for the Labour leader" that Eagle Eye shall henceforth refer to Mr Mandelson.) Mr Cook said that none of the details

Labour promises only to hold a refer-

endum on changing the voting system.

He could not comment on reports

that Tony Blair was moving towards

support for electoral reform, he said,

of the referendum commitment had been decided, such as whether there

Worshipping images Seperits is may have doubts about the fluid Statud, but who could, argue with the Daily Stat? This week the tabled has aschewed more temporal matters, such as the safety of beek to put a graphic purporting to contain hidden pacture of Jesus on its front page.

cama hidden jucture of Jesus on its front page.

This visually enlightening expectance is only supposed to more if you state hard at the piother for 30 seconds their contentrate your eyes on a white surface. Slowly, the face of Jesus will appear as your er to has left Star readers

rif has left Star readers with a "implier seasition" and some spoke of feeling of again readible warman, I revea sent Plizabeth Barret from North London mutting back to church after 10 years of ende. She says. I was a lapsed Roman Catholic for 30 years, but now I keep some life face everywhere. Paul Shorrocks from Blackpool says. I almost choked timing countillakes when I saw it.

Stattle dat aboratory of Ophthalmological Oxford University tells me the profine may be no more than an optical illusion. The samply playing on the ability of the right in sample an image. To says. I remember something similar in one of my Bor Wonderland books.

should be one referendum or two tone on the principle of change and one to choose which system). But Labour's domestic policy committee had made one firm decision, he revealed.

1984

1987-

. 1989

"The only policy we have is that we will call them referendums rather than referenda," he said.

#### In the family way

As exclusively predicted in these here columns two months ago, Peter Gummer (below) has moved from being the man m charge of the Arts Council's lottery board to being the chairman of the

Орега Royal House. To put in another way, the man who recommended that the Royal Opera House receive £55m will now be in charge of the board that is in charge of spending

I gather that the Prime Minister personally approved the appointment of Mr Gummer, brother of John Selwyn. And, as Peter Gummer told me reassuringly: "I was chairman of a nonexecutive group at the Arts Council. It was the council as a whole which actually made the decisions." I only regret there is not a new series of The House on television to record the dramas of this non-executive transfer.

#### Let them eat beef

On the menu of the press gallery canteen at the House of Commons yester-day: roast sirloin of beef, £1.70; the House authorities are certainly determined to make the cynical reporters eat their words. And it looks like they are. "It's going very well." says a source close to the kitchen.

Eagle Eye



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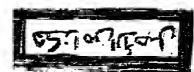
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## The potential for beace, or trouble

arely can a politician have been accused of selling out so many for the it. F of so few, Yesterday's announcement VI-Ylans for elections in Northern Ireland.

ave the way for all-party peace talks, re'sgreeted with a wave of accusation and Carnier-accusation. The truth is that the onists, for all their hot air, are quite g ased with the proposals. The Irish govm timent gave them a muted welcome, kingonalist outrage is as fierce as it was ids dictable. The proposed compromise nair the election procedure is sensible. le I problem is not with that but the role hahe 110-seat Forum that voters will be too; ting, Mr Major's account of that role ne verday risked further alienating already ich ofical nationalists.

ks. he election process will be compli-italed. Parties will field a different short-Hoof candidates in each of Northern Irece? I's 18 constituencies. Voters will choose m list they prefer. A top-up system will upke sure that the 10 favourite parties will and get two more representatives. Conierad? That is understandable, but sim-Ty Fity is not the most important attribute in the proposals. The purpose of these vs actions is to ease the parties swiftly into eatice negotiations. That is the standard 15 finst which they should be measured. mThe voting method itself should prove un obstacle to talks. In advocating diferent electoral systems each party has re in trying to maximise their represen-

thion. The Democratic Unionists and the to LP, with their high-profile leaders, stluid have benefited from a presidentialgele election in which each voter chose nt: party they wanted in a single Ulsterringe constituency. The Ulster Unionists Y fuld have come out better under a Westminster style election. The Government's compromise was bound to upset, but it provides reasonably fair representation for all parties.

The same cannot be said, unfortunately of role the elected body is to play. The plan is for every party represented in the Forum to send a negotiating team to the talks - with the exception of Sinn Fein if the 1RA ceasefire is not restored. However, the Forum will continue to exist after negotiations are under way and that will not improve the prospects for peace. The two main Unionist parties are likely to command a majority of the seats. Like every Northern Ireland Assembly that has preceded it, it will quickly become the symbol of the Unionist majority. This is what the nationalists fear.

In theory the Forum will remain independent of the negotiation process. But the Government admits that the negotiators could decide to draw it in. With those few words the Prime Minister has raised the spectre for the nationalists of the unionists deciding to involve a Unionist controlled Forum in the peace process. Fear of a return to majority-based decision making was exactly what led the SDLP to oppose these elections in the first place. Even more important, the prospect of the Forum lessens Sinn Fein's chances of persuading the IRA to resume the ceasefire.

The Government should make it clear that the Forum will definitely be excluded from the negotiation process unless every party agrees to its involvement. Unless they are firm about the limits on the Forum they will make negotiations difficult, consensus unlikely, and they will reduce the chances for peace.

## The end of civic Christianity

he Methodists have gone public with a gloomy picture of their future. tothout revivalist fervour of a kind the Uurch has not seen in a century - which 1 could take divine intercession - the 1 cethodist church will die off. It's not one. The fall in the numbers of Paethodists is reflected across the estab-5ched churches. Protestantism in Britain

eas reached its end game. na The consequences go wider than the te of one denomination. A pillar of Stritish identity is crumbling. Methodism's nadition of outward-going, practicalhimded faith has been a vital source of our Splittical values and social ideals, How will 15te springs of civic action and social congrn he replenished once Methodism is

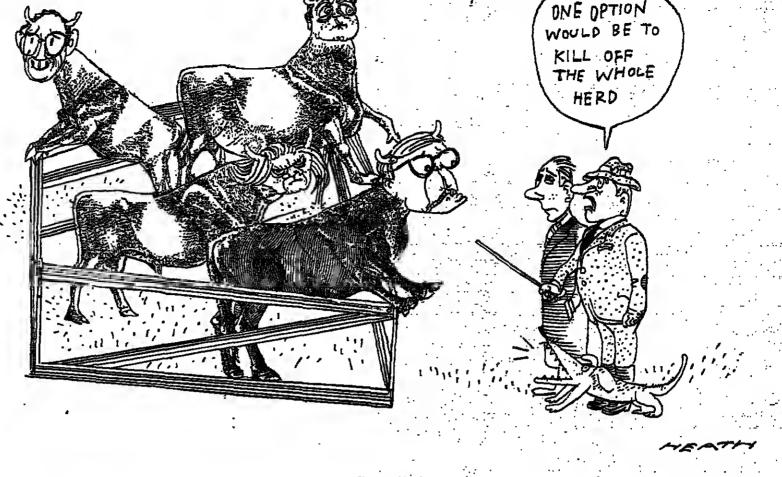
more.

50 For the Methodists, as for the Baptists dad the United Reformed Church, the figteres are grim. Methodism recruited 9, 071 new members in the past three ears, but lost 22,460. More worrying, Towever, 30,813 members died. The numeer of Methodisis under 26 has shrunk by nnc-fifth. Churches are closing at the rate hf almost two a week. Church demograthy is not much better for the Anglicans or the Roman Catholics, either. Attenince at Sunday worship in Anglican Thurches is broadly stable at about 1.1 milnon. However the state church's age Otructure is similar to that of the other Penominations: Christian worship and thurch membership are old people's ctivities. Some children come to Sunday "chool, but once they hit their teens they throp away and never return.

Push the curve of membership forward into the next century and the mainstream Christian church - the denominations with hierarchies and centralised structures effectively come to an end. In contrast, the decentralised, theologically promiscuous fringe churches, often lumped together as fundamentalist" show signs of vitality. But few of them show the wide, generous engagement with politics and society that, at its best, characterised Methodism.

What the Methodist meltdown symholises is the end of civic Christianity. Years before there were Victorian values. John Wesley took his movement across industrialising Britain. establishing a personal faith linked to social purpose. Methodism, in a sense, helped provide the industrialised modern world a sense of spirituality and moral purpose. No wonder the historical clicke behind the rise of the Labour Party has been that it owed more to Methodism than Mark.

This is the broad tradition of Christian socialism into which Tony Blair has been trying to tap as he fashions new Labour. His problem is that this tradition no longer has much of a social hasis. Mrs Thatcher could appeal to a new generation of gung-ho entrepreneurs to carry forward her revolution. Mr Blair faces an uphill struggle to find an equivalent constituency to be the bearers of his values. Methodism helped to provide the industrialised modern world with a sense of spirituality and moral purpose. There is no latter-day equivalent as Britain's moves into the world of the infotainment global economy. A values gap yawns before us.



#### Corralled

## - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### BSE: who will care for the thousands of victims?

CLIVE EVERS

Chairman

Sir: As the organisation that offers support and information to the families of people with Creutzfeldt-Jakoh disease, we are appalled by the prospect of a epidemic of infected people (reports, 21 March).

Professor John Pattison, chair-man of SEAC, the governmentappointed expert committee on BSE, says that up to 500,000 people may have been infected before the bovine offal ban in

The Government failed to act at the earliest possible opportunity to put sufficient funds into research. It is essential we know how this disease develops in humans and to what extent it can be passed from person to person. We are concerned there are few facilities in the UK to carry out such transmission studies.

The members of our network.

and the 650,000 people in this country who suffer other forms of dementia such as Alzheimer's disease, know that care in the community is ill-equipped to look after these people in future. Those of us at the sbarp end of community care, who are looking after people with dementia, ger to cows. have been a soft target for health

commercial union with Europe

believing that the country would

retain its political independence.

If they did that they were remark-

ably stupid although, to be fair, politicians of 1975 did a very good

b in conveying that impression.

In fact we chose to leave EFTA,

which was organised precisely the way Mr Pyrah describes, to join the EEC, the federal destiny of

which was plain to be seen by any-

a callous disregard for Com-

monwealth friends whom we had

induced to develop single-com-

Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

modity economies based on sup-

At the same time we displayed

one bothering to look.

Too late to pull out of Europe

Sir: The people, says Roger Pyrah plying us with raw materials and (Letters, 20 March), voted for a food. Today EFTA is no more

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone

number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: tetters@independent.co.uk)

cuts in the past. In particular with us despite the adoption of health authorities have failed to provide for the 17,000 younger people with dementia to which new cases of CID will be

The Government owes it to the people who have become infected to prepare sufficiently and commit enough funding to care services to make their last months as dignified as possible.

> Creutzfeldt-Jakuh Support Network Alzheimer's Disease Society London SWI

Sir: The behaviour of the Ministry of Agriculture when address-ing a threat to the general population rather than the agricultural industry reinforces my already jaundiced view of its motives. An outbreak of fnot-and-

mouth disease, which has the potential to ravage cattle stocks, is treated with utmost rigour. The presence of BSE merely requires the affected cattle to be destroyed, presumably because the disease is much less of a dan-

Nevertheless, BSE remains

and the Commonwealth link is

greatly weakened yet we remain

an overpopulated island heavily

dependent on imported food for

survival. Prudence therefoe dic-

tates that, having made our bed,

EEC before it was too late. Today

I would vote to stay in and for a

made more demncratically

accountable. The Commission

J A DAVIS

Bookham, Surrey

In 1975 I voted to leave the

we should lie on it.

the Parliament.

measures designed to wipe ont the disease in a few years. Admittedly it has now (just) peaked, but much later than was confidently predicted. It would seem therefore either that the infective model used to determine the measures is wrong, or that those measures are being inadequately implemented stored.

What a surprise, then, to hear that the official position has effects changed from "no evidence of a link with CJD" to "very low

Is the ministry now prepared to take responsibility for the ensuing catastrophic loss of confi-

dence in our beef industry? CHRISTOPHER FORSEY Northwich, Cheshire

Sir. Nature seems to have a way of telling us when we have pushed the boundaries too far. "Mad cow disease" comes after 200 years of applying to the production of heef our determination to have everything we want, and as much of it as we can cram into our

Beef eaters happily ignore the ecological consequences of cattle herding - the devastation of huge

mouths.

areas of land, the contribution to ground water pollution and the ruination of many less "fortunate" peoples' rural economy. They ignore the fact that beef production is the most resourcehungry way of providing protein, taking up millions of acres which could he used for growing foods more easily transported and

They ignore the cumulative effects of taking in hormones and antibiotics through farming policies based on greed for profit rather than need. MARGARET NELSON

Ely, Cambridgeshire

Sir: Another press uproar about BSE and the health risks of eat-

Is it not true that the motor car kills thousands of people each year? Should it too be banned in order to save lives?

I think that it is time that the responsible press undertook some elementary risk assessment of the whole issue of BSE instead of continuing to undermine and destroy one section of a great British industry. J R ELLIOTT

Southwell, Nottinghamshire

Sir. Christopher Bellamy's report

on Britain's increasing isolation in opposing a ban on land mines (19

March) highlights the Govern-

ment's view that "anti-personnel

mines bave a role as defensive weapons provided their positions

view presupposes that mines will stay put once placed, which is not

Torrential rain in Mozambique

this month has flooded a wide

area including the beavily mined

Manhica district. Many of the

200,000 people affected have lost

their homes and belongings.

Once the waters subside, some

ing the daily toll of suffering

anti-personnel mines inflict.

from known minefields.

always the case.

#### Defining life and death

Sir: William Hartston ("Between the living and the dead", 12 March) discusses the concept of brain and brain stem death and states that some of the "recent" remarkable cases of recovery [from coma] have followed readings that would have justified turning off all life support systems". This is not the case. Nobody, I emphasise, nobody has ever satisfied the guidelines laid down by the Royal Medical Colleges for the diagnosis of brain stem death and regained consciousness. The cases quoted in the media do not fulfil the criteria.

The guidelines state that to safely diagnose the irreversible loss-of brain stem function the patient must satisfy various preconditions as well as have negative brain stem tests. The clinical tests for brain stem function are only valid if considered with various preconditions and excluisolation: The preconditions are as follows and it is their satisfaction which renders the diagnosis of brain stem death safe.

If just one case arose wherein

the guidelines were followed and a patient recovered, I (and assuredly the Royal Colleges) would no longer accept the brain stem formulation of death.

were not introduced for the purposes of human organ donation. Whilst transplantation has benefited from the implementation of these criteria they were developed solely to avoid the extremely distressing scenarios where "corpses" were being ventilated in intensive care units.

may face the added danger of mines displaced by the floods Only a total ban offers longterm hope of significantly reduc-

> MARTIN COTTINGHAM Christian Aid London SEI

#### **Managing NHS**

Sir: Your correspondent Dr A M Hulme (Letters, 19 March) might do well to inquire about the training of those who carry the responsibility of managing at the sharp end of the NHS. He would find that many such

managers have undertaken the portering, auxiliary nursing and domestic tasks to which he refers, as part of their training, as well as observing the work of doctors and other health care professionals. Conversely, it is sadly true that medical training in this country has not given the opportunity for doctors to gain an understanding at an early stage of the task of managing the diverse organisations that make

However, many in the medical profession do see the need to Paying the price work closely with their local managers to ensure that the public resources available in the NHS are used to the best possible effect for the benefit of the

up the NHS.

patients whom we serve.

N J CHAPMAN Chief Executive Hospitals NHS Trust Dorchester, Dorset

ately to MPs, peers and others at the Palace of Westminster on the internal Parliamentary Data and Video Network. Copying it to the Internet for use by the electorate, schools etc would cost

Sir: Labour's proposed statutory right to interest on late payment of invoices is unworkable (report. MICK GARRATT

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science

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Biograph .

## The Cabinet and other cases of brain rot

The Government bas finally come out and said it, then. Elections in Northern Ireland are safe. "Yes." says objef witch doctor to

the Government, "Doctor" Brian Mawbinney. The latest scientific advice shows beyond all fairly reasonable doubt that elections in Northern Ireland can take place." Without damaging anyone's health? You can never be totally sure of

anything," says Doctor Brian "Mawhinney", "but insofar as you can he tolerably sure of anything, then yes, with luck, fingers crossed, touch wood, we can go ahead and have elec-tions in Northern Ireland." Scientists are not so sure about this

privately, however. They think that BSE Ishort for the Bogside/Stormont Exercise) may actually cause

"The reasons for this are quite clear," says a scientist who does not want to be named, only paid in cash. The election arrangements proposed by the Government are so complicated that it causes severe brain damage even trying to work

"It has always been said that anyone who claims to understand the Irish situation does not, by definition. know what he is talking about, and t



think we can say that the same goes for these Northern Ireland election arrangements."

'An election on the mainland is straightforward by comparison. Several candidates stand for election and the one that gets the most votes goes to Parliament and does exactly what his party teader tells him to. However. under these Northern Ireland arrangements ...

The scientist falls silent. "Yes?" There is no answer. Under the strain of trying to figure out what the Government means, the scientist has actually suffered major hrain aversion, a condition that causes people to go silent when a certain subject is raised, and which scientists now think is actually caused by elections in Northern Ireland, or BSE (Bombing

and Semtex Elimination). This is not peculiar to elections in Northern Ireland, of course. Scien-

tists have isolated other topics of conversation which are suspected of causing major brain rotting, of which the major ones are:

Europe The Booker Prize Tony Parsons The total predictability of panellists' responses on Any Questions and Question Time

Britpop The Scott report The Internet

The Newbury bypass

The extreme difficulty of getting cellopbane wrappers off the outside of brand new hlank VHS tapes, etc.

It has been noticed that the introduction of any of these topics into the average conversation can lead within nunutes to distressing symptoms such as staring into space, looking at watches, getting on coats, and leaving the house for periods up to several weeks without phoning home. But it is now believed that the introduction of BSE (jocularly supposed to stand for Bloody Silly Elections) might lead to displacement symptoms

on a scale not known before. "Yes, there is a link," says a politician who prefers to stand down at the next election. There is definitely a link between the intractability of a subject and the mental health of the shit Explanation.

person who is discussing it. Now, I bave been in Parliament for 10 years. and my doctor has seriously warned me that if I don't get out now. I could become certifiable during the next Parliament. And I am sure he's right. Most of the Cabinet is stark staring

honkers already.

"Have you seen all those staring eyes? I mean, have you really looked hard at the Cabinet recently?" "Which ones?"

"Well, I don't want to run the risk of libel, but if you look at the ones called Michael you'll get an idea of what I'm talking about." Back to Doctor "Brian" Mawhin-

ney for a last comment. "I helieve that the electoral arrangements in Northern Ireland will work because you can't trust a party where someone like Harriet Harman sends her child to a grammar school, and even if we get it wrong. I think you will find that the Scott report says we had the best of intentions.

"I am totally confident that the way forward has now been focused and targeted in such a way that we can formulate the appropriate responses.
"I am sorry. What was the

BSE is believed to stand for Bull-

#### Creeping peril English caricature of the Irish nation of land mines

Sir: To suggest that the English merely pretended that the Irish were wild and uncivilised in order to justify invading their country ("Irish butt of English racism for more than eight centuries", 20 March) is to make the mistake of imposing modern values on the are accurately recorded". This

The English really did believe that the Irish were a backward single currency. The federal institutions do, however, need to be people. After all, they lived in a country that had barely emerged in economic terms - from the Stone Age at the time of the first should be made subordinate to Anglo-Norman invasion; a country that spent the next six centuries in a state of continual civil war, a country whose farmers had not learned how to thresh corn and who had their horses draw ploughs by the tail; a country that never enjoyed an indus-

trial revolution. English caricatures of the Irish were based upon, although distortions of the truth. The real issue is the extent to which the English were themselves responsible for creating the truth that led to the caricature, by keeping Ireland in a state of colonia dependency.

ANDREW BARR London NW6

Sir: So English notions about the Celts as a race and the Irish as a nation ("Words from the history of a nation's prejudice", 20 March) are to be characterised by the opinions of Gerald of Wales - three quarters Norman, one quarter Welsh - and the Scotsman David Hume. JUSTIN KAASE

#### If the anorak fits

Sir. Leslie F Churchill (letter, 21 March) should abandon his anorak at once.

An "anorak" is generally taken as a pedant with particularly boring hobbies - typically trainspotting, folk music, replying to letters to the editor ... Ahh. Bit of an own-goal, really. Oh well, I'm off to Millets to get an extra-large

> GARETH LODGE St Albans, Hertfordshire

Context: Comatose patient is ventilator-dependent. Known cause for coma. Proof of irremediable structural brain damage. Exclusions of potential causes of ventilator dependent coma: Hypothermia. Metabolic or endocrine disturbance. Drugs. Recent cardiac arrest.

The brain stem death criteria DT M M JONAS FRCA

Clinical Lecturer Nuffield Department of Anaesthetics Oxford University

#### Off the Internet

Sir: Far from following the US and Australian "open government" leads in putting parlia-mentary records (Hansard, Standing and Select Committee reports) and legislation (Bills, White Papers etc) on the Internet, it appears from Monday night's debate in the Commons that this summer's privatisation of HMSO will lock out the possibility of putting such information on the net.
It is already available immedi-

practically nothing.

SIMON GARDNER Leighton Buzzard Bedfordshire

19 March). Any supplier who threatened to take a corporate. giant to court for enforcement of interest charges would suddenly West Dorset General | find that orders would dry up.

Middlesbrough

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Let's stand back for a moment from the fate of our 11 million cattle; from the sad fact that there may well be some people - one hopes very, very few - who have con-tracted Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease from eating beef products; and from the bizarre fact that between 1986 and 1989 people thought it a bright idea to feed our cattle with pellets made from the chopped-up brains of these left's force in the chopped-up brains of sheep. Let's focus instead on the unpalatable truth that if it does ecome necessary to slaughter the

British herd, most of the loss will be carried by British taxpayers.

That is the way the agricultural industry works. We regard it as normal that our producers should be paid subsidised prices for food. We accept that meat bere should cost twice as much as it does in, say, Aus-tralia or New Zealand. We think that the management of agriculture should be part of the remit of government, and so it is somehow the Government's fault that the industry should have got itself into this mess. We have dumped the idea that the government should involve itself in organising manufacturing indus-try, that it should run a telephone

ment in agriculture. Of course, we are not alone in this. All around the world govern-ments are more closely involved in food than they are in any other industry. At one extreme they own collective farms and plantations, a policy that is now widely discredited. But even in countries where the market economy is established for everything else, they still get drawn into the marketing process and, as a result, into acting as an industry representative. A minister thinks it perfectly appropriate to proclaim that he is feeding his children hamburgers; you would never get him announcing that he was encouraging bis family to drink

more whisky.

There is, in fact, an illuminating parallel between beef and whisky. The two industries are roughly the same size. The value of farm output of beef last year was roughly £2.4bn; of whisky produced roughly £2.5bn.

service or own an oil company. But same amounts of money on the two we seem to be stuck with involve-products. Add in the costs of the meat-processing industry, markups in restaurants and canteens, and the total amount spent on beef, comes to about £4bn. Take the total sales of whisky, and we spend about £3bn. So the total home spend on beef is a bit larger than on whisky. But whisky is a much more important export product; last year we exported £2.2bn of whisky but only £520m of beef. So you could argue that from the point of view both of national interest and tax revenues, whisky ought to receive much more of the Government's

> There is one other crucial difference: booze is run under the rules of commercial competition; beef is not. Consider what might happen if the beef industry were. We would, I suggest, see the same

span of attention.

division into a mass-market product and an upmarket one. There would be general brands, with, say, Scottish beef or West Country beef pro-moted in the same vein as say, Cutty



Run the beef industry under the rules of commercial competition and taxpayers would be safer

Sark. They would be basically commodity products, but would be elev-erly promoted and the quality would be more carefully monitored. Alongside these, there would more specialised brands for people who were prepared to pay a premium to be assured of higher quality, the bovine equivalent of single malts.

I personally would make a pitch for the Belted Galloway (much prized by discerning German consumers) to be promoted in the same way as the Macallan.

This would have profound consequences for the entire industry. Consumers would be able to demand that animals would be slaugh-

tered in humane and decent conditions Instead of writing letters protesting or calling for the government to change legislation, they would be able to make their preferences known by buying meat from appropriate producers. If people felt strongly about animals being driven around the country for long periods, some supermarket or wholesaler would quickly spot that it could garner a larger share of the market by promising never to treat creatures in this way. You can

The key change here would involve a shift in responsibility. In most conventional industries the producer is liable for the quality of the product. Producers operate in the knowledge that a slip in quality will damage the brand image; this is a powerful discipline. Commercial companies inevitably make enormous errors, but they are in general liable for the consequences of their actions, however much they resist.

rganie" meat.

When Perrier found that its water had been contaminated it was forced by market pressure to withdraw its entire supply. When Distillers, the principal whisky producer, strayed so disastrously into pharmaceuticals with Thalidomide. it was evensually forced to pay compensation. In neither case did the taxpayer pick up the tab for a com-

Over the next generation agriculture around the world is going to become much more like any other industry. Food products will no longer be subsidised to anything like already see this trend beginning in free-range chickens and so-called the extent they are at the moment. New Zealand has already abolished such subsidies and the efficiency of its farms has soared as a result. It is probably the lowest-cost heef producer in the world.

Import harriers will be reduced, so that the benefits of low costs will be shared among the world com-munity. Quality will rise. If we have a comparative advantage as a beef producer, as we may well do given our climate, then we will be able to how the world has changed

with the industry appreciit was not in its long-term: est to be seen to be under of the incumbem minister

A properly-run commerc try would now tackle the of consumers head-on. W nnt that requires an extre sure like slaughtering th herd is not yet clear; whi mean is looking at every st production process where has been expressed - whamals are fed, what horm used, how are they slaughte asking whether present p hest practice in world terr the product is right, the ind think about rebuilding which will not he difficult like eating beef.

Fail to get the product cloud of suspicion will ren the long-term commercial and often have irrational re to very small risks. But they stupid and any industry tha listen to them, fails to un-

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**维持**证据

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cows and British science Our chronic under-

Mad

investment in basic scientific research will hamper the fight against BSE, writes Tom Wilkie

Mad cow disease now looks as if it may be the equivalent of Aids, but as an epidemic confined to one country. The two diseases were recognised within a few years of each other. in both cases the causative agent was unknown, and in both cases governments that should have known better

But there the similarities end. An international scientific effort wasmounted to track down and identify the causative agent of Aids. Britain is the only country with mad cow disease. and consequently the international scientific community bas not seen it as a pressing problem.

But the Government failed to recognise its weakness in the basic science needed to underpin any sort of reasoned response to the potential of the bovine disease to trigger its buman analogue, Crentzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD). It set up the CJD surveillance unit, which bas reported this week to devastating effect, but it is frankly unacceptable that we have had to wait for the buman corpses before we could think it likely - for we still do not know - that eating beef may have

been responsible. The CJD surveillance unit conducts applied research, which supplies invaluable information but not understanding. Why are definitive tools not already available to tell us for certain if people bave caught CJD from eating beef and whether



BSE Britain; we still do not have a way of determining whether any given sample of beef is safe to eat

my given sample of beef is safe to eat? For decades, Britain bas maintained a research unit in Edinburgh looking at the related disease of scrapie in sheep. It is an open secret in the scientific community that for nearly a decade - the period before

- researchers make the wrong choices in science all the time - as long as there

were others who were exploring the right avenues. But basic science in Britain is now so stretched that, until recently, there was hardly anyone else. Dr John Collinge and his colleagues

Why are definitive tools not available to tell us if people have caught CJD from eating beef?

the outbreak of mad cow disease this, the Neuropathogenesis Unit, essentially marked time scientifically by failing to appreciate the relevance but St Mary's is not immune from the of modern molecular biology - gene splicing and genetic engineering - to the work it was doing. In principle, this would not matter

at St Mary's Hospital Medical School stresses and strains of basic science in Britain - as demonstrated when its group researching Alzheimer's disease emigrated to the US en masse and

when the charismatic head of the department, Professor Bob Williamson, departed to Australia. Consequently, much of what we do know about the basis for these diseases is due to research led by Professor Stan Prusiner, in California, where there is neither scrapie nor mad cow disease.

That is a telling indictment of the UK. The basic science required to allow us to understand what has happened is not something that can be turned on and off like a tap. It requires motivated and clever people who are actually surprisingly cheap - for scientists are not as greedy as City financiers. But even so they are too expensive for the Government - Britain is the only OECD country spending less as a proportion of national wealth on research and development now than in 1981.

One of the lessons of the war

against Aids is that scientists doing apparently unrelated research made crucial contributions. It follows that if a country is to maintain the capacity to deal with potential threats, such as Aids or mad cow disease, it needs to maintain a broad base of scientists cheerfully doing work that appears utterly irrelevant.

It is an old lesson, for at the outbreak of the First World War, Britain discovered that it was so deficient in basic chemistry and its application that the dyes for Army uniforms, the optical glass for gunsights and the ingredients for explosives came from its

enemy - imperial Germany. Now another "war" has come: the one against BSE. And once again under-investment has rendered British science incapable of contributing fully

## No reason to sacrifice sirloi

Politicians are not lying about safety, says Phil Saunder

Food scares affect everyone way with the new disease of a scare is likely to attract infected material got it more publicity than one we have grown up with and which is one of our traditional staples. Bad enough was the possibility that under-cooked eggs could give us food poisoning - how much more alarming is the idea that traditional British beef could give us an horrific, hrain-wasting disease!

The knee-jerk reaction is obvious - a scurrying away from supermarket beef counters, a careful scanning of food labels to ensure not the tiniest smidgen of beef can taint tonight's dinner. As for reassurances from leading politicians, government ministers and scientists - well, we've heard that all before, haven't we?

But have we? What exactly have we been told? And, under- the Spongiform Encept neath the hype and hysteria, what exactly are the facts? Surely, I am not being economic with the truth to report: A new variety of CJD has been discovered that has led to the deaths of 10 people under the age of 42.

this disease has not been identified, but government scientists have said it could be linked to BSE that was present in cattle in the Eighties.

The exact agent that caused

If beef is implicated in any

human food chain after when new regulations w

British beef has beer. round with such a plet rules and regulations t fully controlled food likely to find its way o British - or any other -

If British beef is go cause disease, why are scientists and politicians to its defence? Why are t eating beef and why do th tinue to tell us that ther reason for any of us to a It would be easy to

"self interest" or "mone these scientists – the one thy Advisory Committee greatest knowledge i workings of BSE and C.

Are they people likely crately to put themsel risk? After all, Thomas might almost have said what shall it profit a ma gain the whole world an his own soul - but for a of roasi sirloin?"

The writer is chairman of th

## Poison bomb in the brain Cost of careless optimism

The UK's only epidemic of BSE was officially blamed on the feeding to cows of an improperly treated offal meal that had become contaminated by the scrapie agent - found in sick sheep brains. Yet this same UK ingredient was exported in millions of tonnes to cattle in BSE-free countries all over the world. It was also manufactured in a similar way in the US without any BSE erupting there. Furthermore, 24,000plus UK cattle born after the offal ban in 1988 bave still gone down with the disease.

But there was something unique to UK dairy farming in the Eighties that may give the real reason for the BSE epidemic: the Government required dairy farmers to treat their cattle for warble fly with an excessive dosage of a systemic pesticide. It contains organo-phosporate - a chemical also found in military nerve gas used in Iraq. This mother of all chemicals also contained pothalimid - the basic unit of

the infamous thalidomide. This chemical had to be poured along the backs of cattle, whether infected with warble fly or not, and was designed to penetrate the skin, turning the whole internal environment of the cow into a poisonous medium. The whole purpose was to kill off the warble grub that could be found even

inside the central nervous sys-

tem itself. Being an organic farmer, I won a High Court action in 1984 to debar the Ministry of Agriculture from treating my. cows with this pesticide. I warned officials that this chemical could permanently damage proteins inside the central neryous system of both the treated cows and the farmers carrying out the treatment. It is worth remembering that there has been no case of BSE in bomereared cattle on organic farms. I endorse US scientific opinion that BSE and similar dis-

The chemical used was also found in military nerve gas used in Iraq

eases are caused by the presence of a misfolded version of a specific protein called prion protein, found inside the brain of all mammals. The protein can become corrupted due to a rare inherited genetic fault; this accounts for low background incidence rates of all these diseases (CJD, scrapie, BSE) that have run for bight years. (Maff's chief vet in 1912 reports "Scrapie in Oxon!")

But a specific environmental trigger may mean that the folding process of the protein becomes artificially corrupted in large numbers of beings, so that the abnormal protein starts accumulating like a cluster bomb in the brain. An epi-

demic can then erupt. This line of thinking should make us look again at conventional explanations for BSE. We can't simply blame it on feed. Infectious though this prion

agent is, the feeding of massive doses of these prions to misfortunate laboratory animals rarely passes the disease on. This suggests that some defence mechanism operates in the gut of healthy beings. So while we must consider a risk, however minute, from the intake of prions through beef consumption, the greater risk must come from exposing ourselves in early life - perhaps in the womb - to significant doses of chemicals that

I believe it was the exposure of our cattle population, farmers and animal workers to these chemicals in the 1980s that switched on the epidemic of this disease. This could be the true cause of the BSE débacle.

can corrupt this prion protein.

Mark Purdey

The author is an organic dairy farmer in Somerset and a BSE researcher.

The story of BSE in Britain L is of the anthorities making reasonable, but hopeful decisions. They have erred on the side of optimism. That was a very risky position to take, given the dangers involved if the gloomiest predictions prove correct. The stance taken by the authorities is even more worrying in retrospect since we now know that many of their expectations have proved

policy that was over-optimistic, the public in now danger. Originally, the Government's advisers - the spongiform encephalopathy advisory committee (Seac) - decided that BSE was probably passed on only in feed and that when the infectivity of the feed stopped in 1988, so would the BSE epidemic. But at the moment we do not know

to be wrong. As a result of a

in fact, soundly based. Likewise, Seac felt that BSE would not be passed from cow to calf during pregnancy. We now find that large numbers of cattle, which are the offspring of infected cattle, go on to develop BSE.

whether this optimistic belief is,

Originally, Seac felt that BSE-infected cartle would not transmit their infection to humans. This was because tissues injected into mice produced no ill-effect in the mice. Yet a single buman meal of

such a tissue could contain 30,000 infective units (where one unit is enough for a cow to infect another cow). In other words, it is impossible from these experiments to prove that there is not enough present in a single meal to infect a human.

The Advisory Comminee on Dangerous Pathogens implicitly recognised the uncertainty in 1994. It stated that if certain tissues (which we were still eating) were considered as being possibly from a cow that was infected with BSE, then they should not be handled without gloves, should be acted

BSE should now be considered a threat to public health

on in a fume cabinet, and the person dealing with them should probably wear a face mask. At that time, we were eating 250,000 livers from

infected cattle. Seac's original decisions were optimistic but reasonable. They bave turned out to be wrong or ill-informed. The repeated tightening of the restrictions on beef manufacture has made the previous

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restrictions clearly inadequate. The Ministry of Agriculture has produced a huge increase in the amount of food grown in the UK. It has done this by bringing in good methods and spreading them throughout the agricultural world. Food is spread from one part of the UK to another. Good markets and low margins have led to excellent food in the UK that is relatively cheap. The prob-

BSE should now he considered a threat to public health and should be handled by the Department of Health. It should be made a notifiable disease.

lem is that if something goes

wrong then a whole industry

collapses and a whole country

Research should be generously funded. We should try to find if people are already incubating the disease. The members of Seac who were in their posts before November 1995

should be asked to resign. They should have known that a more cautious approach should have been taken. Optimism. finger-crossing and inactivity is unacceptable for a disease such as this.

Stephen Dealler

The writer is consultant in medical microbiology at Burnley General Hospital.



79% of people in this country believe that it should be legal for those incurably ill and in severe distress to be allowed to request a peaceful, dignified end to their suffering. Our law does not agree: so the agony continues.

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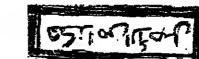
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VOLUNTARY FUTHANASIA NOCHTY 15 PRINCE OF WALES TERRACE, LONDON W8 5PG, TELEPHONE, HIT LAST



ind Gaye Gambol, eomic-strip answer ca's Dagwood and umstead, made their re début on the back e Daily Express on 16 50. Almost exactly 46 on 11 March 1996. ponist, Barry Apple II was an incredible h for some years inspecial nine-picture rip in full colour. Ins a record run for any wspaper strip - and, there are still more

pily for George and nbol, they will not be see them published, ic and Gave were, in Hrry and Dobs Apple-yrappily married partround whose lives the Incidents that so charthe Gambols were

SAppleby was born in mam, but a family move kiwas young meant that do school in Coventry. nin love with drawing. hed a competition for un hy the Royal Soci-Fs. and became the first to win honours. For reasons the family red to London, where tirsued his arts studies famous if forgotten

Albert Perry.
playing football for "I in an away match at n upon Thames, he saw taggy schoolgirl on the



touchline, roaring with laughter as he missed an easy goal. A day or so later he swerved his bicyele to miss a pedestrian, fell off and landed at the feet of the same schoogirl. She hooted with laughter again, and a lifelong friendship was horn. He was 14, she was 13, and 12 years later they married. This was Dobs, born Doris, who would one day share the strip's

But first they became business partners. They set up a seum. With his savings run-small office together as jour-ning out, he tried his hand at small office together as journalists, Barry following his father's footsteps. After an early sale to a boys' magazine with an article on how to tune a motorcycle engine, his luck ran out. Dobs. however, blossomed toon signed with his new pen-and was soon knocking out name "App", appeared in no

Tom Enders compiled a bril-

liant record at Yale, where he

was a member of one of the se-

cret societies which are said to

thousand-word articles at 10 guineas a time, eight more than

Barry's average. He abandoned

writing in favour of his first love, art, and took a postal course

from the famous Percy V.

This so encouraged him that

leges, studying life drawing at

Heatherleys, anatomy at the

Royal Academy, commercial

art at St Martin's - and design

at the Victoria and Albert Mu-

cartooning, much recommend-

ed by Percy Bradshaw who was

himself no mean hand at

The first Barry Appleby car-

humorous art.

Bradshaw Press Art School.







an idiotie officer called less a periodical than Punch. As "Captain Wah". Hearing that the cartoonist with so many new cartoonists,

failed. He tried newspapers Basil Reynolds had been called and in 1938 was taken on by the up, Appleby rushed round to the Mickey Mouse Weekly and London evening paper the Star. This kept him husy with a joke took over Reynolds's regular contributions, "Skit, Skat and the Captain" and a cowboy-hatted character called "Pinkie cartoon a day until the Second World War broke out. An amhitious hut under-funded newspaper designed for direct sale Green". Unfortunately the paper shortage reduced the comie to fortnightly, thus losing the "Weekly" from its title, and half Entitled Reveille, this would in later peaceful years turn into a light-hearted weekly, full of of Appleby's moome.

During the war years Ap-pleby became a full-time fireman, while Mrs Appleby became an ambulance driver. Thus even two strips on halftime service became harder to complete to their deadline. This was the first time Dobs took up

her husband's mapping-pen, dipped into his Indian ink and began helping out with the backgrounds. Her contrihutions, art work and inspiration would increase as their workload grew. The origins of the Gambols

can be seen in the early joke cartoons Barry Appleby con-tributed to the Daily Express from the day after VJ Day. Conceived as no more than a colnmn-breaker to lighten the sports page, this daily joke be-came habit-forming for readers, especially as a regular punter began to appear, a chubby lit-tle everyman with a beaky nose and heavy evebrows, now and then in the company of a them into the Sunday Express as. slender curly-topped blonde.

newsprint rationing was about ' to ease, and allow three "big pa-per" days a week, Barry and Dobs started thinking seriously about a new, regular strip cartoon. The suburban punter and his wife would make ideal characters, hut what to call them? Dobs came up with the perfect name for a couple who cambled for the fun of it. The Gambols made their back-page début in March 1950, three times a week. as a strip, three times as a sin-

On 4 June 1951 paper ra-tioning finally ended and the strip became a fully fledged daily. Then in 1956 the sheer popmarity of the Gambols took well, their single strip boosted One day, hearing that up to three rows to satisfy de-

mands from overseas Sunday papers with comic supplements. Finally colour was added and the Gambols Annual, first published in landscape format in 1952, added colour pages by 1991 when the 40th edition was published. Dobs had died in 1985. The strip itself, if seen only

occasionally, seems somewhat reactionary today, dealing as it does with everyday domestic sit-uations of an ageless, childless couple, the two kids who appear once or twice a year. Miggy and Flivver, are a nephew and niece - a comic-strip pregnancy was considered editorially unsuitable. But that is evidently the strip's secret, for it is widely published in several languages around the world, and continues to prove that good art work is not necessary in a comic strip. It's the appeal of the ideas that counts.
In the Seventics Barry Ap-

pleby, a pleasant-looking mod-est man, made a rare public appearance as a surprise guest on Quick on the Draw, the television game show for cartoonists. He made quite sure that his beloved Dobs shared the spotlight, laughing heartily from the audience just as she had laughed at him in their faraway schooldays. ....

Barry Appleby, cartoonist: born Birmingham 30 August 1909; married 1935; died 11 March

#### Thomas Enders

<sup>1</sup>Enders was managing of the investment bank h Brothers, after a dis-<sup>1</sup>d and combative career tatile diplomat both in Sr-torn places as Camid Central America and Ils, including Washingtawa and Brussels. his preoccupation was momic and trade issues. as he was, however, he single-minded enough more militantly antinist elements in the Administration, and

falling between the Is of diplomacy and war. as for an abrasive Enders was born in Hartford, Connecticut. imily of wealthy Amerricians. On his mother's was descended from ae founders of the Coneolony, and on his faide from early Dutch His great-grandfather iunder and president of na Insurance Company. er and grandfather were

asidents of the Hartford al Bank, and his uncle.

nders, won the Nobel

or Medicine in 1953.

guarantee success in life. He graduated summa cum laude later earned Masters degrees at the University of Paris and at Harvard. In 1958 he joined the American foreign service and within 10 years he had become Deputy Assistant Secretary for Monetary Affairs. In 1971 he went to Cambodia at the time of the American bomhing. He was

> sination attempts, and on one occasion the car he had been riding in was totally destroyed. Together with his ambassador. Emory C. Swank, he produced a long document. now deposited with the historical division of the Department of State, defending the B-52 carpet-bomhing of that country against charges by the British journalist William Shawcross and others that it was

three times the victim of assas-

unnecessary easualties. At the onset of the energy back to Washington to serve as Principles, which led to the the foreign service with the Assistant Secretary of State for

Economie and Business Affairs. In that job, between 1974 and 1976, he was one of the founders of the International Atomie Energy Authority. He then went as ambassador to and first in his class in 1953. He Canada, where one of his achievements was the overcoming of the opposition to a new pipeline to take natural gas from Canada to the United

States. From 1979 to 1981 he was US ambassador in Brussels. Enders served as Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs from 1981 to 1983. He opposed the limited support the Reagan Administration gave to Britain in the Falklands conflict, taking the view that the damage to American interests in Latin America was more important than any

damage to British interests. He played a leading role in the Reagan Administration's "twin-track" policy in Central America. This advocated working for negotiated settlements of conflicts in the region while at the same time supporting indiscriminate and produced anti-Communist forces, including the right-wing "Contra" rebels in Nicaragua. He was one

which eventually restored peace to Central America.

his following submissions all

to servicemen was launehed.

The wartime Reveille was

rather more serious, being es-

sentially for servicemen to air

their gripes. However it had lighter features and these in-

cluded Appleby's first strip car-toon, the weekly adventures of

jokes and pin-ups.

He also supported increased arms shipments to US allies, including the Contras. He was convinced that Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and even Surinam were the targets of a concerted, "falling dominoes" style Soviet and Cuban campaign to overthrow democracy. In the end Enders's inde-

pendent operating style lost the confidence of the State Department. At the same time his nsistence that there should be diplomatic as well as covert military activity in Central America made him a target for those even more gung-ho Cold Warriors in the White House national security staff and elsewhere like Oliver North and Elliott Abrams who wanted to rely mainly on secret paramilithat Enders was "going soft" on

In 1983 Enders, who, one of his colleagues said, had "reaped the whirlwind" for having excluded so many people from his intrigues, was forced out and sent to Madrid as US ambaserisis. Enders was brought of the architects of the San José sador. In 1986 he retired from "Contadora" peace process rank of career Minister.

Enders was six foot six or eight, according to various accounts. His manner was both aggressive and superior. Even to an admirer such as his boss George Shultz he was "imperious, intellectual and ironic". His analysis, Shultz commented, "conveyed an aura of hrilliance even when he stated the obvi-

ous. People were impressed by his talents, but his sometimes smug smile and style could irritate even those who admired him most. While in Madrid, Enders wrote a book, Latin. America: the crisis of debt and growth. When; he retired from the foreign service and joined Salomon Broth-..

rowers in Argentina, Brazil, tary activity. People put it about. Chile and Mexico back to the New York market. Enders's hobbies were walking and mountaineering. He climbed in the Canadian Rockies and the Alps, and explored

> support for botanical gardens, including Kew. Godfrey Hodgson



Photograph: Karsh of Ottawa

Thomas Ostrom Enders, diplo-matand banker: born Harsford, Connecticut 28 November 1931: Deputy Assistant Secretary of ers, he recognised the growth . . State for International Monetury, potential of emerging markets Affairs 1968-69; Deputy Chief of in Latin America and played an Mission, Belgrade 1969-71, important part in bringing bor-Phnom Penh 1971-74; Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs 1974-75; US Ambassador to Canada 1975-79. to EEC 1979-81, to Spain 1983-86: Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs 1981-83; managing director, Internationpilgrimage roads in France and al Corporate Finance Depart-Spain. He was also interested in ment, Salomon Bros 1986-96; botany and generous in his married 1955 Gaetana Marchegiano (one son, three daughters); died New York 17 March

sung by such prominent Arab

singers as A. Hafix. Shadiyah,

A. Radi and M. Fuad, in Egypt,

and the Syrian F. Ahmad, the Algerian Wardah, the Tunisian

Latifah and the Moroccan

Samira Said. He collaborated

with M. Abd al-Wahhab, R.

Sunbati, S. Makkawi, B. Ham-

dy, K. al-Taweel, M. al-Muji and

A. Shiraii. Because song is a constant dialogue between words and music, Muhammad's

sensitive words influenced the

compositional skills of these of-

#### **Odysseus Elytis**

At the beginning of his luminous career, Odysseus Elytis said: "I write so that black does not have the last word." In his last book, West of Sorrow, where words breathless, he writes: "But never, beauty, was time lent to me to succeed against aniline black a victory . . . " Obscure" words of a poetic kernel which was about to explode with infinite possibilities, writes Katerina Anghelaki-Rooke [further-

to the obinary by Professor Roderick Beaton, 19 March]. Black and light, sunshine and darkness, these were the two poles of Elyns' poetry, a pendulum between passion and patience, a bewilderment stretching throughout the day. At the beginning, he was acclaimed as the poet of the sparkling Aegean, of The Sov-Summer". In his poems, especially "The Mad Pomegranate difficult questions hanging from its branches ("Tell me, that which opens its wings on the breast of things / On the breast of our deepest dreams, is that the mad pomegranate tree?"), the sun occupied the land of Greece, as if death had never stepped on her territories, only

resurrection But, while the poet had writ-ten in the past, "The sorrow of death has set me in such a fire, that my glow returned to the: sun", it is with The Light Tree (1971), when he had just turned 60, that Elytis feels death starting to cast its real shadow.

The first time it crossed my mind to find an end in the midst of happiness. Death attracted me like a strong glaze where you

can see nothing else." Steadily, through collections like The Invisible April, The Ox-openn Elegies and finally West of Sorrows, the blend of darkness and light becomes just a pure black stone, an onyx. "A key



turns both ways; either you lock yourself in or you open yourself to all." The "poet of the Aegean" and of "the Greek sun" at this

seem to pursue one another, point, to my mind, becomes a really great poet. Because all great poets, or should I say those who belong to that "species" with more or less access to perfection, they all say the same thing, examine the same impossibility: how to live with all this darkness surrounding us, waiting for us, waiting upon us? And how, in spite of this, know-ing only this, one can live a deep human life?

"Life is a chord / where third sound interferes / and it is the one which tells the truth throws away / and what the rich man collects? (West of Sorrow). Again, "The sky [will be] the way children want it / with roosters, pine cones, azure kites /flags/On Saint Heraclitus' day Tree", with all the answers to the / the kingdom of the child writes Elytis. So too Jan Kochanaowski, the 16th-century -Polish poet, asks for Heraclitus' tears to help him to mourn his "small girl, his little daughter". They both see Herachus related to a child's world. -

They all say the same thing; but we down here, we are not. invited to the great conference of the immortals and we don't

May I add to Roderick Beaton's excellent and moving obituary of the great poet Odysseus Elytis? writes Ian Martin. Soon after the richly de-

served award of the Nobel Literature Prize. Elytis was invited to London to receive an honorary degree. Although widely read in English he was not at all fluent in it, and I was among: those asked to come forward and converse with our distinguished guest in his own language. What does one say to an outstanding poet, who is also a genuinely modest man? The last thing he wanted to talk about

was his own poetic achievement. very dear to his heart: the state of higher education in Greece. A new university was being set up in the island of Crete (the poet's birthplace): I remember vividly how excited and eloquent this naturally shy and reticent man became on the subject. The University of Crete is now well established and flourishing: it is singularly appropriate for it to be associated with the memory of one of the century's very inest poets.

#### Abd al-Wahhab Muhammad for song-writing the talent of a most infloential singer in the nacular reflects a marked

l-Wahhab Muhammad e of a number of Egyptets who started their as colloquial poets and riters on the heels of abeen's lytical revolution 900s, which brought col-Egyptian poetry forecthe attention of literary

nammad's output ex-11,000 songs at the time death. They can be seen extensive record of the rmation of the Arab psyd sentiments of the last ecades. The songs were d by their conversationre and dramatic structure vered the whole range of riting from the patriote situational. In addition. te the lyrics for a numsuccessful musicals and ion soops including Savvi-J. Rawah wa-Sukavnah va and Sukayna") and ul-Bani ("Rose Petals"). wide interest in the work

ehange in Arab culture, in which the Koran dietates the literary and aesthetic scale of values, and which is strongly oriented towards formal language and its literary products. It gives little attention to oral, folk and unorthodox forms of creativity. As a result some of the most important Arab poets. such as Bayram al-Tunis and Kamil al-Khulai, went unnoticed in literary circles because their work was wrinen in one of the several dialects or vernaculars of the Arab world or was part of the various oral perforthan their literary-language counterparts. After conturies of overlook-

ing and marginalising oral litstarted to grant them prominence and respectability from the 1960s onwards. This was partly due to a recognition of



mances, although they often at- forms, such as songs, television tained a much larger audience soaps and films, on a par with respectable literary genres. In the field of colloquial poetry and song-writing, the change was also due to the seminal work of

group of young poets who radically changed the nature of the song "Hubb Ayh?" ("What Arab song. Abd al-Wahhab Muhammad

was born in 1930 in the popular quarter of Jammaliyya in old Cairo. His father was a teacher in the Azhar, the main religious educational institution in Egypt. Muhammad started his education in a traditional manner by learning the Koran and then went to primary and secondary schools. He did not complete his education and instead went on to work as a elerk in Misr Oil Company in Caire. While working there, he started to write colloquial poems and offered some of them to the eminent singer Fayza Ahmad, who gave the first performance of one of Muhammad's songs in 1953. With the help of Jaheen, Muhammad

Kind of Love?") in 1960. The song was set to music by the talented young musician Baleegh Hamdy and attained instant acclaim throughout the Arab world. It heralded a new sensibility and a different type of love song, in which soggy despondent sentimentality was replaced by a pensive desire to explore the meaning of love, question its hackneyed elichés, and propose a new type of love hased on reciprocal understanding. gender equality and rational commitment. The prevalence of the interrogative mode of expression throughout the song reflects a tendency to question received wisdom and challenge established norms, which was part of the new ethos of the

and contributed to the develcoment of their music. His success did not entice him to confine his work to successful musicians or popular singers, and he continued to work with the new singers and musicians of the 1980s and 1990s.

Abd al-Wahhab Muhammad, poet and song-writer: born Jam-multyya, Cairo 1930; married (one son, one daughter); died Muhandiseen, Cairo 15 January

#### erature and colloquial modes of expression the literary scene heen's poetry was sung by the moved to work for the influen-1960s. Umm Kalthoom went on heen's poetry was sung by the to sing eight more of Muhammost prominent contemporary tial weekly paper Rus Al-Yusouf mad's songs, including her very last song, "Hakam alayna al-Hawa" ("The Dietates of and furthered his contacts with Egyptian singers (such as the great Umm Kalthoom, the Edith Piaf of the Orient, and lyrical poets and song-writers. The great break in his career the importance of cultural stud- Abd al-Halim Hafiz), it took the came when Umm Kalthoom, at ies which put many creative audience by storm and gained the peak of her career as the Muhammad's songs were Birthdays Carl August Nikolaus Rosa (Rose), luloid film, Paris, 1895; colour pic-51: Mr William Shatner, actor, 65: tures were printed in the New York Illustrated Mirror, the first in any news-Mr Stephen Sondheim, composer violinist and composer, and founder Lord Alport, former MP and Deputy and lyricist, 66: Professor Sir Colin poper, 1904; the Tear of Russia was



#### Births. **Jarriages** & Deaths

**ERAL** ANGEMENTS

WICK: Helen. The private fu , for family and close friends only, ake place on Saturday 23 March rium, Randall's Road, Leather Native R.L. DAO. telephote 2 373813. If you would like to flowers to Helen Chadwick's fuplease arrange to have them ded to J.H. Kenyon, 83 Westne Grove, London W2 4UL 1-229 3810) by Friday 22 March to 50m.

ie Sirths, Marriages & HS should be sent in writing to uzette Editor. The Independent da Square, Canary Wharf, Lon-14 Stil., retephoned in 0171-293 faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are

George Benson, jazz guitarist, 53; Mr Richard Beihell, Lord-Lieutenant of Humberside, 74; Miss Belly Callaway, ice-skating trainer, 68; Miss Sheila Cameron QC, Vicar-General of the Province of Canterbury. 62; Air Marshal Sir Denis Crowley-Milling, 77; Mr Brian Hanrahan, broadcaster, 47; Mr David Ingman, former chairman, British Waterways Board, 68; The Very Rev Lawrence Jackson, Provost Emeritus of Blackburn, 70: Dr Harry Kay, former Vice-Chancellor, Exeter University, 77; Mr Wemer Klemperer, actor, 77; Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, composer, 48; Mr Peter McEvoy, golfer, 43; Mr Karl Malden, actor, 83; M Marcel Marceau, mime artist, 73; Mr Charles Pick, former managing director, Heinemann, 79; Sir Lynden Pindling, former prime minister of the Bahamas, 66; Sir Bryan Roberts

OC. Vice-President Commonwealth

Magistrates' and Judges' Association,

75: Mr Paul Rogers, actor, 79; Mr

Paul Schockemobile, show-jumper.

Spedding, Chairman, UK Register of Organic Food Standards Board, 71: Lord Stokes, former president. British Leyland, 82; Miss Mary Tarum, actress, 46; Mr Leslie Thomas, author, 65; Admirat Sir Richard Thomas, former Black Rod and Scrieant-at-Arms. House of Lords. 64; Professor Sir Arnold Turnberg. President, Royal College of Physicians, 62. Miss Fanny Waterman, pianist and teacher, 76: Professor David Wasson, director, Brighton

#### Anniversaries

Births: Maximilian I, Holy Roman emperor. 1459; Sir Anthony van Dyck, painter, 1599; Giacomo Insanguine, composer, 1728; Anton Raphael Mengs, painter, 1728; Adam Sedgwick, geologist, 1785; Wilhelm I. King of Prussia and Emperor of Germany, 1797; John Frederick Kensett artist 1816: Randolph Caldecott, artist and iffustrator, 1846: stration of motion pictures using cel-

of the opera company, 1842 Robert Andrews Millikan, physicist, 1868. Deaths: Thomas Carew, poet, 1639; John Canton, physicist, 1772; Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, author, 1852; Thomas Hughes, jurist, reformer and author, 1896; Frederic William Farrar, author and cleric, 1903; Ernest William Homung, novelist, 1921: Benjamin Williams Leader, landscape painter, 1923; Louis Delluc, film director, screenwriter, novelist and critic, 1924; Michael Todd (Avram Goldenbogen), film pro-ducer, killed 1955; Ben Lyon, actor, entertainer and producer, 1979; Sir Richard Sykes, ambassador to the Netherlands, shot dead 1979. On this day: the Order of the Templars was abolished by the Pope, 1312; the English were defeated by the Scots at Anjou, 1421; the National Gallery in London was founded by the purchase of 38 pictures from J.J. Angerstein. 1824; the English Football League was founded, 1888; Auguste and Louis Lumière made the first demon-

interned at Tsarskove Selo (Dvetskoye Selo), 1917; the first international airline service began, flying between Paris and Brussels weekly, 1919; a Soviet government was formed in Budapest, 1919, a land speed record of 272mph was set up ty Sir Malcolm Campbell in his car, Blue Bird, at Daytona Beach, Florida. 1933: the world's first highdefinition television service was inaugurated in Berlin, 1935; the Arab League was founded in Cairo, 1945; Jordan became independent, 1946; an attempt was made to abduct Princess Anne in the Mall, London, 1973. Today is the Feast Day of St Basil of Ancyra, St Benvenuto of Osimo, St Deogratias, St Nicholas Owen, St Nicholas von Fue and St

Lectures

Paul of Narbonne.

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Innocents Abroad (iv): Annibale

Carracci, Landscape with the Flight into Egypt", Ipm.

Tate Gallery: Elizabeth Cowling and John Hoose, "Conversations on Cézame (iv)", Ipm. Crucificion", 1.15pm.

Stirling University: Sir William Stewart, "Science and Technology Policy

- fact or fiction?", form. RIBA Architecture Centre, Landon W1: David Bass, "Disaster and Ductwork, 6.30pm.

#### Luncheons

Consular Corps of London The March luncheon of the Consular Corps of London was held yesterday at the Britannia Hotel, London W1. Mr Max N. Robinson, Minister/ Counsellor for Consular Affairs, American Embassy, was the guest speaker. Mr Willie S. Wilder, President, also spoke.

Anthony Robert Gall Scott-Gall and

Mr Peter Reginald Cowell, to be cir- ! ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS cuit judges, assigned to the South Eastern Circuit. Miss Kaye Offver, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Burundi (non-resident).

be an Assistant Judge Advocate Judge John D. Cooke, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the European Communities, to be an Hon-

orary Bencher of the Honourable

Mr John Francis Temple Bayliss, to

Society of Lincoln's Inn. Synagogue services Details of synagogue services to be

begins in London at 6.02pm. United Synagogues: 0171-387 4300. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-282 2263. Union of Liberal and Proident, also spoke.

Appointments

Ms Mary Jane Storment Mowat, Mr

ident, also spoke.

gressive Synagogues 0171-589 1663.

Reform Synagogues of Great Britain:

0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portugues I Great Britain:

1181-349 4731. Spanish and Portugues I Great Britain:

2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

held tomorrow may be nhtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, visits Glouestershire. The Princess Royal, Prisident, Save the Children Fund, visits the Save the Children Fund Shop, Monmount, Owen, amends the Women in Wales Luncheon at the City Ball, Cardiff, and visits St Mellon's Estate Project, St Mellons Enterprise Centre, St Mellons, Cardiff. The Duchess of Kesis opens the Ferens Building, Hull University, opens the Holderness Community Health Trus's new Day Care Centre, Hull; and visits the Link-up Project at St Margaret's Church Longhill Estate, Hull, Changeline of the County Changeline of the Changeline of the County Changeline of the Chang

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Oucen's Life Guard at Horse Geards, 11am; 1st Battalion Irish Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Backingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

Wills

Mr Stanley William West, of Reading. Berkshire, left estate valued at £1,957,098 net. Mr Gordon Russell, of Haslemere, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,308,220 net.

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# Thames' pot of gold turns out to be junk

Essentially the company is retreating back to its core utility business. Dull and boning though that strategy might be, it's obviously the

way forward'

When Thames Water was privarised in the late 1980s, Roy Watts, then chairman, dreamt of a diversified international water services group encompassing everything from contracting through to waste management. He wanted to take Thames to all four corners of the world. The boring old lowly paid civil servants who used to run our water utilities (reasonably effectively in most cases) were to give way to go-getting, highly paid, option-incentivised husinessmen, expensive limousines, flights to exotic locations, and the pursuit of the deal. To help him create such a group, he recruited Mike Hoffman as chief executive. The aim was to have at least 20. per cent of revenue derived from sources other than the central regulated water utility business within five years. So they set about using the utility's money to make acquisitions.

Strategically most of these appeared to make a good deal more sense than what others were doing. There were no hotels or holiday companies, for instance; nor has Thames ever been barebrained enough to try to merge with an electricity utility (two of the others have). Rather, Thames concentrated on businesses that were at least in some way related to water - mainly contracting and water treatment equipment.

Whenever there is a pot of gold for diversification, however, it usually ends badly and Thames is no exception. Five years after embarking on the search for other forms of revenue, Thames is now retrenching. The tends to mean that even managements of

years of acquisition-making, flying the world and big salaries have in truth resulted in no more than a great ragbag of junk. Many of these companies, including the German contracting business, have been abject failures. Collectively, they have added significant negative value to the group.

The cost of getting out is a whopping great £95m. Out too goes the chief architect of the strategy, Mr Hoffman, with his golden handshake still to negotiate. Did he jump or was he pushed? In the end, it was probably a mixture of both, for it was Mr Hoffman who headed up the review of operations that led to yesterday's write-offs. By the time it was complete, it was obvious not only that the City would require a scapegoat but that there was not much of a job left for him to do; Mr Hoffman was chief executive of the group but the money-earning utility business

has always been managed by others.

Thames is to keep six of the big international projects it is involved in, all of them in water delivery and treatment of some sort. But essentially the company is retreating back to its core utility business. Dull and bor ing though that strategy might be, it's obvi-ously the way forward. Mr Huffman's departure comes hard on the heels of the top management elear-out at Yorkshire Water. The circumstances are very different, of course, but there is a theme here. Lax regquestionable quality can prosper, their taults | water company currently under offer when and mistakes hidden by a cascade of monopoly profit. As public expectations rise, and the regulatory screw tightens, only the best management teams are going to flourish. I make South West Water an expensive propo-The shakeout in utility management has a

#### Why has Severn Trent picked on South West?

In halance-sheet terms, a Severn Trent Ltakenver of South West Water looks a perfeetly respectable deal, and beats the rival proposal from Wessex Water hands down, It is when you look at other aspects of the deal that it seems not quite right. First, the that basis it would make just as much sense arithmetic, which is hard to fault. Both potential bidders can afford to nav cash. But Severn Trent has low borrowings and at a capitalisation of £2.3bn is nearly three times the size of both Wessex and South West.

The gearing of a Severn-South West combination would rise to no more than 70 percent, interest cover would not fall to less than 4.5 and at £7 a share such a deal would raise earnings by 15-20 per cent, according to Smith New Court. No contest then, In terms of financial engineering it makes eminent sense | not dead yet for the biggest water company to swallow the

smallest, rather than have two tiddlers merge. Niggling doubts remain, however, Why has Severn Trent settled on a bid for the only

there so many other fish left in the pond? This pitches it into a contested bid that despite promises not to overpay - could sition. Furthermore, Wessex has a better fit with South West that could justify it forcing der and could pronably make more opera-Coventry, Much of the argument Lyonnaise des Eaux used for huving Northumbrian Water was based on the fact that it already

owned the water company next door. The best explanation for Severn Trent's choice is caution. South West Water is small enough to be easily digestible at £750m. On to bid for Wessex, which is the same size. The other explanation is that Severn figures a bid for a non-contiguous company stands a belter chance with the regulator, who is suspicious that mergers between adjacent companies will consolidate big regional monopolies. If this line of reasoning is correct, it could tip the balance of the bid.

## | Inflation is

with epitaphs like this is that they often have a nasty habit of signalling a new hurst of life.

It is indeed a generation since Britain enjoyed such a good inflation performance. as the Prime Minister was swift to point out again in the House of Commons vesterday in response to the excellent inflation figures the price up. The two have a common bor- announced earlier. Mr Major and his Chancellor deserve congratulations. The question tional savings than a company based in is whether the good performance will last for another generation.

The debate is hetween those who think there has been a profound structural change in the economy and those who believe the bad old British tendencies have merely been tempered by recent trends. Mr Bootle's case is that global compedition, technology and labour market deregulation have made the inflation process irrevocably different. In the opposite camp are those who think wage pressures and margin building are not as bad as they were but have not been obliterated.

In the pessimists' favour is the fact that every other economy is also enjoying the lowest inflation for a generation. And Britain's headline rate - which fell to 2.7 per cent in February - remains above inflation on a comparable hasis in 11 out of our 14 EU partners and five of the six G7 countries. Nobody is suggesting that economic pol-

icy in Britain is so irresponsible that we will Inflation is dead, according to one of the Citys; see inflation returning to 25 per cent. But Imost prominent economic commentators, the gloomier forecasts suggesting 5 per Roger Bootle of HSBC Markets. The trouble cent within a few years are entirely possible.

# Stock Exchange gives go-ahead to trading reforms

JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

The Stock Exchange emerged yesterday from months of bitter controversy to give the green light to a potentially radical reform of the way sbares are traded in London, A fully automated order-matching system for the FT-SE 100 stocks is to replace the tradition of market makers quoting buy and sell orders, bringing the City into line with all international financial centres.

But the compromise blessed by the Stock Exchange's board bore the marks of the lengthy struggle by the powerful market makers and some of Britain's biggest institutional investors against the rushed change initially sought by the Exchange executive. The board said it now expects

date for the introduction of the He subsequently accused new trading services. By limiting the future order book to the FT-SE 100, and most likely to restricting the size of potenbal michael Marks of Merrill Lynch restricting the size of potenbal orders, the compromise reform will also allow the big market makers to carry on their dominant business in London pretty much as before.

A statement by the board said the order book will be combined with block trading, maintaining the ability of large



Men who make markets: Giles Vardey, (left) and Michael Marks.

to continue to take risks and

The row over the nature and pace of the trading reforms was one of the main reasons behind the dramatic sacking at the spring 1997 to be the earliest ecutive of the Stock Exchange. small group of market makers (formally Smith New Court) of mounting a coup against him to bead off reforms they feared would damage their livelihoods. Mr Brydon and Mr Marks bave denied the accusations.

The recommendation for a public limit order book accepted yesterday was put forward players in the London market unanimously by a special Stock

Exchange steering committee comprising a majority of market makers. "There has heen something of a change of beart," said one. "There has been a recognition that we have got to make this system work." Giles Vardey, director of market development at the Ex-change said: "It was a good meeting, there is a good consensus."

But the recent consultation on the proposed reforms by the Exchange showed an overwhelming desire for more time, and considerable concerns among big institutions about preserving

liquidity.

We are talking about a vast number of issues, IT, regulation, rules. We are all in favour, but what practitioners are saving is that this is highly complicated beginning of this year of and we need more time to fiboard member.

Putting off the introduction until the spring at the earliest met strong pleas from IT departments that they want to get the adaptation to the Crest electronic settlement system out of the way before starting on another large innovation. The final stage of the Exchange's modernisation of its trading platform, Sequence Six, will go ahead as planned on 27 August, but its new trading service capability will not be activated until much later.

#### Bad day for jobs: Redundancies hit privatised railway, plane-maker and cut-price shops

## South West Trains to sack hundreds

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR Transport Correspondent

A sweeping redundancy programme is expected to be announced within days by South West Trains, the first privatised rail company, now operated by Stagecoach, Britain's largest

bus company.
Union officials and management are due to meet today to discuss the redundancy plan, which is expected to he carried out over the next few weeks. Several hundred of the 4,000 staff are likely to be made re-. dundant and unions fear that they will be offered terms less

which are more than double the £54.7m in the forthcoming fistatutory minimum. South West Trains admitted last month, shortly after the

takeover by Stagecoach, that 125 white collar staff were being made redundant, including a quarter of senior managers. in a first round of culs. It warned then that further reductions in the workforce were inevitable.

South West Trains is under pressure to make sharp cuts in expenditure because the franchise was won by Stagecoach with a very low bid. In BR's last year of man-

agement, the line received a generous than those available subsidy of £63.5m, but Stage- The company is likely to under the old BR agreement, coach is due to receive only avoid trying to reduce the num-

nancial year.

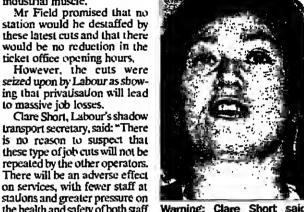
Yesterday, Peter Field, managing director of South West Trains, warned on BBC Radio 4's Today that a restructuring of the company was planned and said: "Several hundred jobs will go at the end of the day." Job losses are likely to be tar-

geted most severely at the 400 headquarters staff as layers of management are removed, a standard Stagecoach approach when taking over companies. They are also expected to hit the 2,000 staff employed to look after stations, sell tickets and see off trains.

ber of drivers because of their industrial muscle. Mr Field promised that no station would be destaffed by these latest cuts and that there

ticket office opening hours. However, the cuts were seized upon by Labour as showing that privatisation will lead to massive job losses.

Clare Short, Labour's shadow transport secretary, said: "There is no reason to suspect that these type of job cuts will not be repeated by the other operators. There will be an adverse effect on services, with fewer staff at stations and greater pressure on the health and safety of both staff and the public."



## Fokker blow to Shorts workers

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Shorts, the Belfast aerospace company, confirmed vesterday that 1,000 jobs would be lost because of the collapse of Fokker, pulsory cuts to around 300.

Sborts has asked the UK government if it could switch 300 production workers to training programmes in preparation for contracts the company expects to became available later this year.

The company, which makes wings for the Dutch aircraft group, said about 540 temporary employment contracts would be ended over the next three months, and about 250 voluntary losses were likely.

Shorts closed production of

Fokker 100/70 wings last Friday mediate replacement of pro-after the Dutch government duction work, would create sigafter the Dutch government failed to find a buyer for the company, majority-owned by Germany's Daimler-Benz.

Ken Brundle, vice-president company was pursuing potential new business opportunities in the civil and military sectors.

These included hids for government defence programmes such as the Replacement Maritime Patrol Aircraft, in which Shorts is teamed with British Aerospace. It is also involved in a missiles tender with Texas Instruments.

"Decisions on these programmes are expected later this year. Success on these important programmes, whilst they would not create an imnificant joh opportunities in Shorts in the next four years," Mr Brundle said.

-We are reasonably optity to decide who we would partner on these tenders. We selected BAe and Texas Instruments because we thought they were the hest products and we thought they had the best opportunities for success."

Shorts, owned by Canada's Bombardier, had become a Reuters news agency. "There is a sense of loss and a sense of sadness. The Fokker assembly line has been right at the heart of our main factory operations for the best part of 30 years."

#### Discount retailer may axe 300 staff in 27 stores Some 300 jobs are in jeopardy ing the South-east, where there

following the collapse of the dis- are four to five outlets. Annual count retailer Everything's a £.

Conquest of accountants Grant Thornton, who were appointed receivers yesterday, are hopeful of finding huyers for some of the 27 stores either individually or in small groups.

The chain based on the US "dollar store" concept was founded in 1992 by Bruce Coe sombre place, he told the and George Lesiak with the first store specialising in gifts, food and cleaning products opening at Newcastle's Gateshead shopping centre. Since then, the Peterborough-based group has spread all over Britain, includ-

turnover reached about £12m. hut losses since the start-up are approximately 300 workers are part-time shop assistants.

Mr Barnes, head of cornorate recovery at Grant Thornton, said the firm was already talking to "a number of parties interested in either small chains of stores or in individual stores". It was optimistic that some out-

lets could be sold. He and Mr Conquest have appointed Mark Williams, a director of property agents DTZ Debenham Thorpe, to assess and market the portfolio

# Weekend breaks with MINDEPENDENT

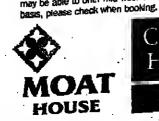
le would like to invite you to take a weekend break and stay two nights for the price of one. In conjunction with Queens Moat Houses Hotels, our offer allows you to pay for one night's bed and breakfast and get the next night, including breakfast, free. Rates are based on two adults sharing a twin or double room and the only stipulation is that your weekend break must include a Saturday\*.

You can choose from 82 hotels located throughout the UK, ranging from country houses and cosy inns, to modern hotels in the heart of city centres. All are three or four star properties and many will allow you to enjoy a longer stay on the same basis, pay for two nights and stay for four, for example. You can check this when making your booking.

To add to our offer, children under sixteen can stay free when sharing a room with two adults, plus children under six can breakfast free. For those of you who are feeling energetic, many of the hotels offer a Body Club or Club Moativation Health and Fitness Centre which you are free to use.

Pictured here is Briggers House Hotel in Ware, Hertfordshire. Previously the home of Lord Aldenham, the 17th century hotel stands in 80 acres of parkland. The hotel has its own professional, nine-hole golf course. The Bridgeman restaurant offers unique and creative dishes for which it is renowned. A double room for two people for two nights costs just £90.

 Apart from the Royal Crescent Hotel, Bath and Billesley Manor near Stratford which are only. available for stays Sunday-Thursday. Some notes may be able to offer mid-week breaks on the same





2 nights for the price of 1



TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1. The offer is valid until 5 May 1996. Some 1996, please check when making your

This offer is only valid based upon two people shanng a twin/double bedroom for a minimum of two consecutive nights accom-modation including full national breakfast. All reservations are subject to availability and allocation of suitable bedrooms being

Children under six years of age when sharing a room with two adults will stay and eat free or bed and national breakfast only. Children aged so to fifteen years when sharing a room with two adults will stay free and be charged £4 for national breakfast

per child per day. Children accommodated in their own room will be charged the same independent rate as adults. No further discounts are applicable. tled pnor to departure from your selected

The offer is only valid when you book through QUEENS-LINE UK Reservations 0645 113311, guoting "Independent Ofler" at the time of booking. Lines are open 8 am - 6.30 pm weekdays, 9 am - 4.30 pm at weekends and Bank Holidays. Cancellations are to be notified to QUEENS-

LINE UK Reservations as soon as possible and are accepted up to 4 pm on the proposed day of amval. 10. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer, or promotion and is not valid for special events, theatre breaks

nalf-board arrangements, luxury weekends or weekaway programmes. Offers only apply if the hotel is managed by a company in the Queens Most Houses Group at the time a reservation is made. Photocopies of takens and the vouchers

13. The weekend break prizes are each worth up to a maximum of £364 and must be taken before 31 August 1996, subject to

To qualify for your 2 for 1 weekend break, you must collect four differently numbered tokens from the seven we are printing until Saturday 23 March. You will need to attach them to the voucher which we printed in Wednesday's Independent. In case you missed it, we will print another voucher tomorrow, the final day of our offer, with our last token, Token 7.

**HOW TO BOOK** 

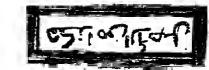
For a Town & Country Classic Weekend Break brochure call 0541 543 500 quoting "Independent Offer". Once you have chosen your iotel call QUEENS-LINE UK Reservations on 0645 113311, quoting "Independent Offer". Your confirmation will then be sent out within 48 hours. Please remember to take your voucher and four differently numbered tokens to your hotel, they must be presented on arrival.

£7,000 OF WEEKEND BREAKS

TO BE WON Today is your last chance to win one of four weekend breaks. Each prize entitles two people to a two night bed and breakfast weekend break at the hotel of their choice. For a chance to win one of our prizes, simply call

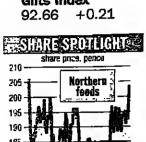
the following number: 0891 252 999. You will be asked to answer one simple question and leave your name, address and telephone number. Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times. Four winners will be picked at random from all correct entrants after lines close at midnight tonight. Normal Newspaper Publishing pic rules apply. The Editor's decision is final.

Weekend breaks TOKEN **EINDEPENDENT** 



#### FT-SE 100 3698.3+12.9 FT-SE 250 4297.4+15.2 FT-SE 350

1860.5 +6.5 **SEAQ VOLUME** 842m shares. 40,076 bargains Gilts Index



and diving and going nowhere very fast but second-liners are

displaying a clean set of heels. As the 100 shares which make up the FT-SE blue chips index managed modest headway the next 250 shares - constituents of the second-line index - put on another robust display, hitting another peak of 4.297.4 points with a 15.2 gain.

This yawning gap between the two indices is seen as further evidence that, at least at present, the London market ofers two unrelated experiences.

The 100 blue chips are vicims of interest rates and New York, while the 250 shares are viewed as offering a much more representative view of the UK conomy, illustrating the

Blue chips may be ducking they have more than made up for their reticence in the past few weeks, hitting six peaks this month while the blue chip index has, at best, drifted. And it was their turn to catch the eye

once again yesterday. Wassall, the conglomerate. gained 23p to 310p, reflecting figures: South West Water spurted 44p to 659p as Severn Trent jostled with Wessex

Water to mount a bid-Northern Foods, which has for long been in the doldrums, drew strength from its involvement in meats, other than beef, and hullish comments from Mees Pierson's John Marshall who is shooting for an uninspiring £121m this year and looking for £134m next.



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

of the year

Blue chips modest, but second-liners show their strength

group, gained 5p to 434p. Electrophoretics, which is developing a system for quickly detecting BSE from blood

samples, jumped 17p to 152p. Guinness responded to flat figures with a 11.5p fall to 460.5p and, in a thin warket, Young's Brewery enjoyed a rare ferment with the voting shares up 37p to 550p and the non voters 35p higher at 503p. Guinness Peat, the financial group run by New Zealand entrepreneur Sir Ron Brierley, is

Stock market reporter

the Dutch investment group is hovering - held at 156p. Lucas Industries, soon to lose chief executive George Simpson to GEC, motored 7p to 209p, equal its year's high. Since it became clear that fresh challenges the shares

to a take over strike. The shares were down to 172p in Thames Water jumped 17p to 575p on its reorganisation and WH Smith, on renewed take over speculation, gained

have drawn support on the view that Lucas is vulnerable

a basket warrant on the sector. SmithKline Beecham gained 28p to 684p. Glaxo Wellcome. helped by upbeat data on a genital herpes treatment, ended 14p to the good at 819p.

Flare, the Ian Gowrie-Smith industrial vehicle announced the expected acquisitions and a cash call, ending the day op

higher at 181p.
MAID, the information group, managed a 2p gain to 228p. Easynet, an internet service provider where MAID has 15 per cent, has delayed its market debut until Wednesday. Fulmar, a high tech com-mercial printer, moved from a 154p placing to close at 186p;

over materialised. Its main shareholder, with 52.97 percent of the capital, has conditionally accepted an offer of 130p cash and 350p in redeemable shares in the bidder, a company called Petra.

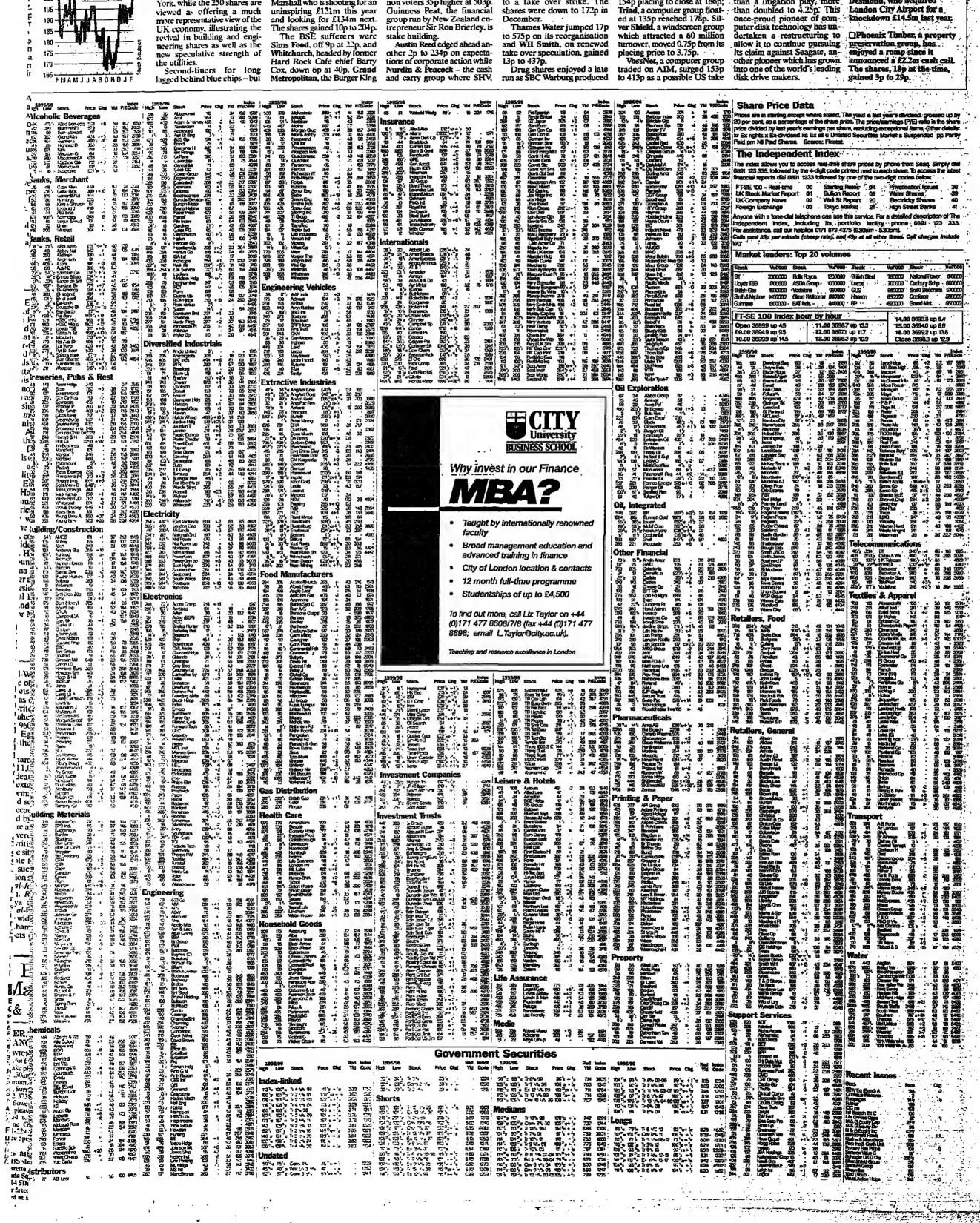
Stanford Rook, the TB treatment group, surged 70p to a 580p peak on an encouraging statement. Lloyds Chemists was firm at 472p; The European Commission is expected to decide the control of the is expected to decide today whether to investigate the bids from Gehe of Germany and UniChem or pass the issue

back to the UK Rodime, which is little more than a litigation play, more than doubled to 4.25p. This once-proud pioneer of com-puter disk technology has undertaken a restructuring to

shaded to 27p on profits, hit by litigation charges, of £1.4m against £1.6m. Around £2.2m seems likely this year. Anthony Hanson and Paul Kaye (former directors) and friends have 27 per cent plus loan stock convertible into
3.5 per cent. Their intentions

are unclear.

Mid States, a US car parts distributor where profits are under pressure held at 40p. Botton International has built a 14.3 per cent stake, Desmond, who acquired London City Airport for a knockdown £14.5m last year.



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# An end to 'boom and bust' is the vital business ingredient

Sitting a few years ago as a fly on the wall in the office of a small firm struggling for sur-vival, the cause of the danger to the company and its staff was plain to see.

Forget government red tape, late payment by suppliers and all the rest of the problems that John Major and Tony Blair have been chewing over in public for the last 10 days in their attempts to win the small business vote. What was really driving the firm to the brink was horribly simple.

It had expanded to keep up with demand during the boom years and was now being crucified in an unexpectedly severe recession, which had its customers diving for cover and cancelling their orders.

The result was cutbacks, redundancies and a soaring debt to the bank, which agreed to continue the overdraft only after an enormous squabble over the assets which the bank held as security.

Hundreds of thousands of small firms went through this searing experience during and after the last recession, with closures exceeding start-ups by nearly half a million between

Some of the afflicted firms had seen much the same hap-pen 10 years earlier. Unlike the most recent incident, which hit

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INDUSTRY VIEW

PETER RODGERS

and property, that first episode was devastating for small manufacturers, and a whole generation was wiped out.

The two recessions together did more damage to Britain's entrepreneurs than the myriad of financial and other obstacles to small business growth that have been identified in a succession of worthy tomes going hack 66 years to the Macmillan report in 1930. (This discovered a shortage of finance for small firms known as the "equity gap," and led to the establishment after the war of the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation - now

small firms painted a particularly depressing picture. It emerged that the main con-

willingness of owner-managers to put up with the pain and hard work involved in rapid growth. An Anglo-German survey of 3,500 firms which was re-leased on Wednesday by the universities of Belfast and Strathelyde found that small

firms in the UK had a signifi-

straint on expansion was not the raft of complaints about red

tape and the rest, but the un-

ducing new products than those are down to 40 per cent. in Germany and Ireland,

A related symptom is that entrepreneurs continue to worry rather more about how to get their wealth out of their companies than about reinvesting it, which is a perfectly rational response to uncertainty about the future.

Capital gains, inheritance tax and the low level of investment incentives are claimed to be a disincentive to the growth of small businesses, and both John Major and Tony Blair have promised to look at the tax regime in their attempts to curry favour with the small husiness lobby. But this is in reality a side issue now that the

top marginal rates on inheri-Proportion of employment in small firms

> With so much consensus hidden behind the political mudslinging, it has become desperately hard for Labour to make a distinctive contribution to the dehate.

cantly worse record for intro- tance, income and capital gains

That said, there is still much that can be done to improve the services available to small firms from the Government, the banking and the venture capital industry. But there are no simple recipes, which is why the competition between John Major and Tony Blair to court the small firms vote has proven so

Mr Blair's policy for small business, announced in a speech in the City on Wednesday, is how much it overlaps with that developed by Michael Heseltine, when President of the Board of Trade, and continued by Ian Lang, his successor. Each side has even taken to

claiming the other is pinching its best ideas. It was Labour, for example, that first suggested a national network of Business Links to supply one-stop advice services to small firms. Mr Blair could hardly have used his key policy speech on

Wednesday to deliver anything other than a promise to improve the network once he gets into power. It will be a centrepiece of his small firms policy.

The roller coaster: Many entrepreneurs have moved out of industry

Plans from the last manifesto for a state-owned small business hank have been dropped as impractical, and replaced with an offer of financial advice, offered through Business Links, and a pooled insurance scheme for

venture capitalists.

Both sides say they will review the small firms loan guarantee scheme, cut red tape, improve insolvency procedures and use the Internet to offer advice on exports. When it comes to shopping lists like these, the small firms lobhies are pushing at an open door now that they have both the main parties chasing the votes of entrepreneurs.

How on earth, the policy makers must have asked themselves, can Tony get a headline

that would differentiate the Labour product from the Government's? The answer must have come

in a flash when John Major in a speech 10 days ago poured cold water on the idea of legislation for statutory interest payments on overdue dehts. Mr Blair seized on this, undeterred by the fact that all hut one of the main business lohbving organisations now believe that statutory interest would cause more problems than it solves.

Late payment of debts is worth tackling, even if the best that can be achieved in practice is to embarrass firms into complying by forcing publication of their payment records, a proposal that both Mr Blair and Mr

Major happen to agree about. But as a way of transforming the lot of Britain's small firms, the late payment issue may prove as much a red herring as the attempt three years ago to blame all the problems of entrepre-

neurs on the banks. Lahour's most significant policy development for small firms has nothing to do with late payments, venture capital insurance, or reform of education and training.

The really important issue for small firms is whether Mr Blair can deliver Labour's new commitment to a stable economy. free of the two devastating booms and busts that plagued Lady Thatcher's reign and destroyed the husinesses of so many of her natural supporters.



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# ARL seek injunction to stop Global League

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

The Australian Rugby League is going hack to court today to seck injunctions to stop Maurice Lindsay and 311 Super League-aligned players setting

up their own competition. Lindsay, the chief executive of the British Rugby League and of Super League in Europe, announced a 10-team Global League earlier this week, claiming that it had nothing to do with Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, which has been barred from starting its Australian Super League before the year 2000.

Global League is scheduled to kick off next weekend, but the ARL will argue strongly that it is merely a hack-door method of setting up Super League and as such should be blocked.

The arguments, which are expected to spill over into next week when the ARL seeks fur-

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ther orders against News Corp. are likely to detain Lindsay in the European Super League starts next Friday.

Meanwhile, only four of the planned 10 games in the delayed first round of the ARL's Optus Cup will go ahead this weekend. The eight clubs which tried

to leave and set up Super League have been ordered by the courts to return to the ARL but seven of them say that they cannot field teams while their players are refusing to play in the ARL's competition.

The eighth, the Auckland Warriors, offered to field a side, but as they were due to play one of the other Super League cluhs, the Brishane Broncos, their availability was Brisbane, Canberra, Canter-

bury. Cronulla, North Queensland. Penrith and the Western Reds have all forfeited their matches.

that they regretted taking that action, but that they had no choice "as the players had again stated that they did not wish to play for the clubs in the ARL

competition".
The Bradford Bulls coach, Brian Smith. is confident that both Graeme Bradley and Bernard Dwyer will be fit for their Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final against Leeds at Huddersfield tomorrow.

The two players, who have heen included in a 16-man squad, will have fitness tests today, although Smith might delay naming his team until shortly before kick-off.

Leeds are due to name their side today with all the indications that George Mann, normally a second-rower, will play stand-off. The Headingley side are hidding for a hat-trick of Wembley appearances this year, having lost there to Wigan in each of the past two

The League is insisting that

the future of the Challenge Cup is not in doubt after this season and that negotiations with the BBC are proceeding. Paris St-Germain, France's

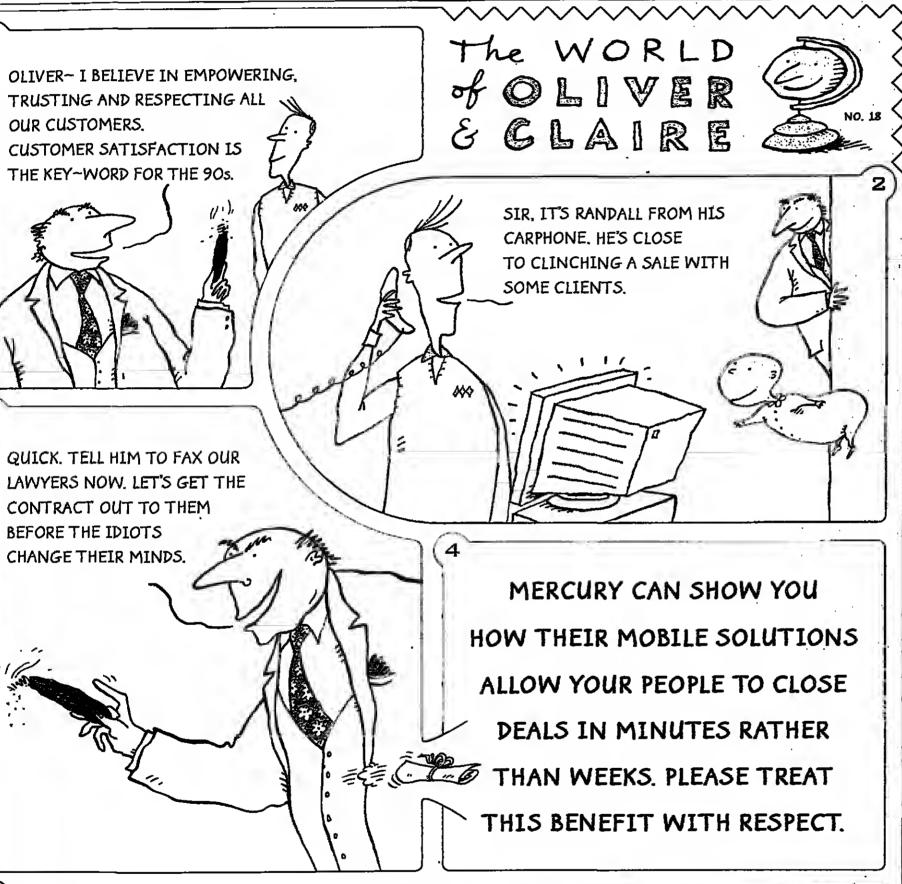
representatives in the European Super League, have named the Test centre Pierre ahead of the more fancied candidate, Patrick Entat.

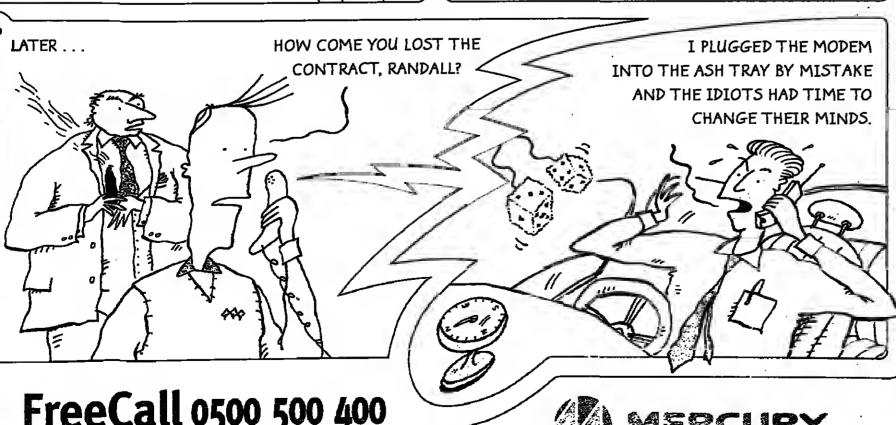
Two former Sheffield players. Laurent Lucchese and Frederic Banquet, are in the Paris side for the opening Super League game against their old club. Also included are former Polish rugby union captain Gre-gory Kacala, and two Australians, Todd Brown and

The former Salford and Widnes winger, Adrian Hadley, is the latest player to decide on a return to rugby union. Hadley has signed to play for Sale, but unlike his fellow Welsh international John Devereux, will not maintain a parallel



Britain's Olympic kit modelled yesterday by (front, left to right) athletes Du'Aine Ladelo and Denise Lewis, and cyclist Yvonne MacGregor, (rear) rowers Matthew Pinsent (left) and Steve Redgrave flank hockey keeper Simon Mason Photograph: Alsport





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Right-hand course with 300yd run-in.

Racecourse is north of city on A49. Hereford radway sunion is a mile away. AD-MISSION: Club \$10: Tancesalls \$9; course enclosure \$5. CAR PARK: Proc. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Rowdy Yatan (5.15) has been sent 195 miles from B Rothwell's Malton stable in North Yorkolite: Aedean (4.15) sent 189 miles from G Eangla's Leves stable in East Sarsen: Alla George (4.15) & Bid For Tools (4.45) sent 114 miles from A Rowcombe 's Hume-how stable in Devon; Rain-N-Sun (3.10) sent 195 miles from J Litarn's Eastwell stable in Loicestershire; Gromal Nan (3.10) sent 196 miles from R Buckler's Melphash stable in Dorset: Polly Leach 12.10) & World Empress (3.45) sent 124 miles from B k Milliant's Kentistheare stable in Devon; Strauton Paper (2.40) sent 98 miles from H S Howe's Onliferthridge stable in Devon. 2.10 BLACKBIRD NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds 00-70 MANINOON (USA) (18) W Clay 5 11 10 ..... 0.076 MARMOON (1950) CIS W Cally 5:11 10.
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RACING: The return of the sport on level turf brings a call from Doncaster's officials to delay the start of the season until April

# Flat's damp start in need of a recharge

**GREG WOOD** 

reports from Doncaster

The sentiment was familiar. but the identity of the messenger was a considerable surprise. "The annual cry is that the Flat season splutters into life," John Sanderson, Doncaster's clerk of the course, said yesterday. We may have a lot of runners, but it's not a great start to the season. There's nothing magic about March and there may well be a case for moving the Lincoln meeting to April."

If yoo stood on the terraces of the Tattersalls' enclosure and looked out across Town Moor, you could see his point. Or rather, you couldn't. A miserable, clammy fog gripped Doncaster, throughout the opening afternoon of the turf campaign, and any similarity between eveots on the track and those at at Ascot and York later this summer seemed sure to be wholly coincidental.

With his comment that a new date for the Lincoln meeting was under consideration. Sanderson was effectively admitting defeat in the face of growing competition from the climax of the jumps season. "As Cheltenham and Aintree have grown, we've got sandwiched and we don't come off too well at the moment," he said. "This meeting is no longer a launching pad as it used to be. Flat racing goes on all the time. Doncaster has got one of the best surfaces in Europe hut we don't have any racing in April."

Change in racing is never immediate, and since a formal ap- no hope of success later in the plication to move the meeting season. Certainly, it will be a sur-

1.30 Helio Dolly

2.05 Three Hills

SIS

2.35 Domak Amaam

DONCASTER

has yet to reach the British Horseracing Board, 1999 is the earliest feasible date ("it could be Doncaster's contribution to the Millenium." as Sanderson put it). Among the dampened racegoers who contemplated the apprentice handicap which opened the card, there would surely be few objections, and tradition too is a weak excuse. The Lincoln has seen enough

changes of venue and condi-

tions in its history to accom-

modate one more. Should the switch take place, Sandersoo wants the Lincoln fixture to retain its status as the year's first Flat turf card and envisages using the March slot for a jumps meeting. "I wouldn't like to see Doncaster lose the start of the season and this is something that would have to

be looked at," he said. As the fog turned to rain two minutes before the first, even the eager young apprentices circling by the stalls must have felt that anything would be an improvement on the present arrangement. Five minutes later, the punters felt much the same way, as Haya Ya Kefaah beat Outstayed Welcome and Golden Arrow to become the first winner of the turf campaign. The starting prices were 33-1, 20-1 and 25-1. When the 20-1 chance Manful went in 30 minutes later, it suddenly looked like

being a very long season.
The Brocklesby Stakes has been won by a very useful juvenile for the last two seasons, but may now have reverted to its former status as a consolation prize for horses who will have

3.05 Coleridge (nb)

4.10 Highborn

ht course - stands' side; Round course - juside; Round mile - outside.

SIGLIST Straight Course - stands; society fround course - inside; Round mile - ontside.

BLeft hand, pear-shaped course with 1 mile straight.

Recevourse is east of town off the AdSS (M18 Jeta 3 & 4). Bus link from Donesster February stands (served by London, Mings Cross); ADMISSION: Club \$14; Grandstand 58; Family Enclosure 53 (under-16s froe all enclosures). CAR PARSE Free.

ILLEADING TRAINERS WITH BUNNERS; J Gorden - 20 winners from 134 runners gives a success ratio of 22.4% and a profit to a 51 level state of \$12.18; B Hills — 21 wanners, 119 runners, 17.6%, +534.48; E Hammon — 21 winners, 224 runners, 9.5%, -592.08, H Cecil — 19 winners, 77 runners, 24.7%, +59.08.

ELEADING JOCKEYS: K Darley — 81 winners, 211 rides, 14.7%; +520.53; Pat Eddery — 30 winners, 180 rides, 16.7%; +510.43; L Dettori — 27 winners, 164 rides, 16.6%; 511.81; W Carson — 20 winners, 192 rides, 13.5%; -556.87.

WINNESS IN THE LOST SEVEN MALIO: ROSE.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNESS: NATIGE (1,20) has been sent 257 miles by A Newcombe from Huntshaw, Devon; Montseryat (4,10) sent 246 miles by L G Cottrell Invat Dullorit, Devon.

1.30 CYSTIC FIBROSIS MAIDEN SELLING STAKES (CLASS F)

FORM GUIDE

Mick Channon (Hit Or Miss) and Sam Moore (Don't Forget Stoka) had a crack at the seller last year but could not beat Jack Berry's Penny Pairles. It might will be the same story today with Berry's Contraverse being by the early-season winning juvenile trained by Willie Janes, Contract Law. But Channon is taken to writhis time and Hit OR Misss, whose classy are Be My Chref was unbeaten at two after a winning debut on this course. There is also added pace from the dam, Jennies' Gem, who also notiched a few wins as e juvenile. Berry's Brocklesby runner failed to sporkle yestorday, but the stablers runner in that race last year managed only lifth. Don't Forget Shoka is by a Gumeas winner and from a stable well capable of winning a seller with a newcomer\_and the fifty has the best of the draw. Tony Newcombe has his in-form Alio George going for a hist-thock at Herzefox he's book of Frankle Detton for Nattile, who is by a well-related though disappointing size and out of a five-furling juvenile, winner. The remaining two are nothing much on pedigree, though Raihona is one to watch for in the market.

2.05 P & J FOODS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3YO 1m 2f 60yds Penalty Value £3,785

FORM GLIDE

Sarry Hibs has made a habit of winning this race and THREE HILLS looks a banker on his backend third to the funced newcomers Silver Dome and Sacho at Newmarket (1m). Nibbited at in the market despite showing nothing at Chester on his debut, Three Hills just failed bited at in the market despite showing nothing at Chester on his debut, Three Hills just failed bit of quicken up at the furiong pole and his dam has thrown hish Daks winner Bolas so this inp should stift even if his sire was a sprinter. Roger Charlton hes been having winners on the oil weather, but the Alleged ont Sammer Spell, who is related to some winners in America, faces a stiff test against the tevounte on his recoourse debut. All-weather maden Crystal Fast is hard to consider, while Classic Lover Instead last term getting better in e Yemouth out Fast is hard to consider, while Classic Lover Instead last term getting better in e Yemouth out Fast is hard to consider, while Classic Lover Instead last term getting better in e North-Instead in the Classic Lover Instead of the Control of the North-Instead of the Classic Lover Instead of the North-Instead of the North-In

2.35 GLOBAL SHOPFITTERS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 3YO 7f Penalty Value £4,078

D) £5,100 3YO /T PERSITY VARIE £4,078

ALDRE PARTHER (P 0 Sadii W Janes 9 D.

AMBASSADOR (USA) Releason # Makkoum) B Hills 9 0

OC6-15- ARCES MOCORATIP (2001) (D J Janes B McMathon 9 0 ...

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ARCES MOCORATIP (2001) (D J Janes B MCMathon 9 0 ...

DEPICTION (Hustreas Beneding and Resong R Guest 9 0 ...

JOHNAK AMARAM (LAR) (Shekh Janes Al Maktourn) 1 Gorden 9 0 ...

MANSAB (USA) (JAA) (Handrah Al Maktourn) 1 Gorden 9 0 ...

MANSAB (USA) (JAA) (Handrah Al Maktourn) 2 0 ...

MILETRINA (CTY (180) (Mileton Piol J Bory 9 0 ...

MILETRINA (CTY (180) (Mileton Piol J Bory 9 0 ...)

OOS-1 MILETRIAN CITY (JBO) Reference Pici J Borry 90
MOCK TRUL (P A Leonard) Mrs J Ramaton 9 0
DOCAN STREAM (7) BB7 Mr Glesson') J L Eyre 9 0
COCAN STREAM (7) BB7 Mr Glesson') J L Eyre 9 0
COCAN STREAM (7) BB7 Mr Glesson') J L Eyre 9 0
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COCAN STREAM (7) COCAN STREAM MR GLESSON STREAM ACT (229) (Film Corol) Mr Charmon 8 9
COCAN STREAM (7) B7 Mr Glesson') R STR

FORM GUIDE

— In declara.

BETTING: 2-1 Destak Amasın, 3-1 Mansah, 7-1 Ambu.
Coetup, Sorbie Tower, Alpha Parabor, 14-1 others
1995: Towestud 3 9 0 L Denon 7 → U Gorden) 12 ran

FORM GUIDE

£4,000 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £2,560

DON'T FORGET SHOKA (Mrs Victoria Goodman) J S Moore 8 8.....

RLINKERED FIRST TIME: Petoskin (3.40).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN BATS: None.

NATHE (Duckhaven Stud) A Newcombe 80 ....

Forget Stoke, 25-1 Skyers Flyer 1995: Penny Parkes 2 8 9 J Carroll 4-1 (J Berryl 8 ran

3.40 MISTER FIRE EYES (nap)

prise if Indian Spark, vesterday's winner, can stay ahead of his generation beyond Easter.

Indeed, of the 115 runners at Doncaster vesterday, only First Island, winner of the Listed Doocaster Mile, appears to have any chance of making an impact in the better races this summer. Geoff Wragg's fouryear-old produced an impressive turn of foot to settle the contest a furlong out, and although Michael Hills returned to unsaddle more deeply encrusted with mud than some of his colleagues at Plumptoo yesterday. he was clearly a satisfied rider.

"This horse has had a lot of problems," Wragg said, "and we had to operate on a stifle last year, but since then he's just improved and improved and now we will be thinking about the Queen Anne."

The Queen Anne Stakes the first race at Royal Ascol. Perhaps, after all, the season really did start here.



A flying start for the runners in Doncaster's opening race yesterday, but the season itself again spluttered into life

Photograph: David Ashdown

## Pennekamp injured and out of Cup

Pennekamp, last year's 2,000 Guineas winner, was withdrawn yesterday from next Wednesday's Dubai World Cup. The four-year-old has aggravated the injury he sustained during the 1995 Derby which has kept him off the course since that race last June.

Peonekamp has been in Duhai since January, preparing for an ambitious comeback in the inaugural running of the \$4m cootest, the world's richest race, at Nad Al Sheba.

Bnt Anthony Stroud, Sheikh Mohammed's racing manager,

said: "The old splint problem has recurred and the extent of the injury is such that he will be

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Highborn (Doncaster 4.10) NB: King Girseach (Newbury 1.50)

unable to make the race, At this stage it is difficult to ascertain how serious it is and what his

The absence of Pennekamp redoces the field to 11, headed

Cigar. Pentire and Needle Gun will represent Britain, with Halling, Larrocha, Tamayaz and Torrential running for the United Arab Emirates,

Lord Relic is the latest horse to drop out of next week's Grand National. The 10-yearold is to be given a rest after be-ing pulled up in last week's Cheltenham Gold Cup. Scolland's only remaining National entry. Emerald Storm, goes on trial for the race at Kelso today. The nine-year-old is a 100-1 chance for Aintree.

DONCASTER 2.35: DOMAK AMAAM finished a place ahead of Mansab in a six fur-

long maiden at Newcastle in Octo-her. He has more scope for development than John Dunlop's charge and, as a son of Dominion, may cope better with the easy going. 3.05: COLERIDGE, a creditable two and a half lengths second to Jaraab on Equitrack at Lingfield last month, will be fitter than most and

hould give a good account. Blaze Away, a recent winner here over hurdles, may be the main danger. 1.40: MISTER FIRE EYES, second to Maple Bay at Wolverhampton re-cently, is probably best on an all-

weather surface but nevertheless

my of his rivals. Golder Pound may give him most to do.

4.10: RIGHBORN, was consisten. last season, ending up on a winning oote. He goes well on an easy surface and is well drawn in stall four judging by the victory of Little Noegins (stall three) yesterday. Tiler may be the most potent threat.

3.25 BETTERTON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 3m

121-LIF ST MELION FARMAY (ST) (D) To Marcost 11 12 JR Democody P2 SUPER GOSSIP (28) P Horger 7 11 4 ... ... N A Fitzgerald 064242 DOM SAMOURAI (FR) (55) M Pipe 5 11 2 ... ... D Bridgenter

BETTING: 1-3 St Method Fairway, 3-1 Dom Samourai, 12-1 Super Gassip 4.00 PAUL CROUCHER MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 4f

4.35 RACECOURSE STATION HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 4YO 2m 110yds

12.1 HAMILTON SILK (13) (D) M Poe 11 10 \_\_\_\_\_ J Osborne
15.22 PEDALTOTHEMETAL (14) (BF) P Astiche 10 B . B Tormey (2)
15.21 CENTAUR EXPRESS (16) (D) A Street: 10 B .\_\_\_\_ T Eley
15.25 RICHELER (23) P Webber 10 B .\_\_\_\_ T Eley
15.25 RICHELER (15) W Mor 10 1 .\_\_\_\_ T Jenás
15.25 OOLDWYN (USA) (18) 0 Norolson 10 0 .\_\_\_\_ W Marston
15.25 VERDE LUNA (65) 0 Arburne 10 0 .\_\_\_\_ Mr J Culloty (5)

#### RESULTS DONCASTER

35: 1. HAYA YA KEFAAH IR FIR 1.35: 1. MAYA VA KEFAAN //R Firench 13-1, 2. Outstayed Welcome 20-1: 3. Golden Arrow 25-1: 4. Almaintanam B-1. 21 ren. 6-1 fav. Cuanto (6/m. 15-, 6. //r Babbage) Tote: 67-2, 70: 51-2, 60. 6-1 fb. 62-50, 52-10, 6/m. 27-34, 50. CSF 25-48, 83. Tucast: 614-087 14 Tuc: 140 wor. 2.0S: 1. MANFUL MASS A Disey: 20-1: 2. Hazard A Guess B-1: 3. Princess Danielle 20-1: 4. Gallardin 33-1. 27 ren. 13-2 n. tays Calder Kine, Carlot Bostle 3-6, W Elsey.

2.35: 1. INDIAN SPARK (I Sprake) 100-50: 2. Joint Venture 5-1; 3. Muches 100-50 7 ran. 5-2 to, Fredrik Ine Featte (474, 3-2); AVG M Turner, Tota: £3-70; £2.20.

3.05: 1. FIRST ISLAND IN Hals: 9-2: 2. Wijara 6-1, 3. Nwaamis 11-10 fav. 7 ran. 10., 20%, IG Wrago, 7ote: £4,40; £2,40, £2,90, DF, £9.90, CSF: £28,61. 3,40: 1 LITTLE NOGGINS IJ Stack, 16-1 2. Lady Caroline Lond (2011; 3. Passion For Life 4.1 far; 4. Secret Voucher 16-1. 18 res. 15, ns. 10 boyed, Totas 118.00, £2,70, £4.30, £1.90, £3.90 OF: £14.80 OF: £278.01, Incast: £1,443.57. Inc: £636.10.

10.03 £1,43,57. 100 £550,10.
4.10; 1.1ACKSON HILL (Pat Endery) 6-4
fay 2. Deadline Time 12-1 3. Dancing Cavaller 16-1, 18 ran. Hc, 17-7, /R Charton;
Yole: £1,50, £1,30, £2,60, £3,70, £4,00,
DF, £15,30, CSF, £14,87 Tacase £249,54.
Tao, £161,80, Fig. Roman Gold 4.40; 1. INSTYABI (V/Carson, 5-1; 2. Po

400 L INSTABLING CONTINUE Banger 20-1 15 ran, 2, 7, U Duniopi, 7ote: £5,60, £1,80, £2,00, £5,20, DF £9 10, CSF: £17 47, Trox £102,90, NP, Full Throtte, Jackpot: Not won, Pool of £59,279,90 carned toward to Doocaster today.
Placepoi: £7,481.10. Quadpot: £78,60.
Place 5: £2,984.60 Place 5: £403.88. PLUMPTON

2.25; 1. JOJO U R Reznago 11:8 kw 2. Chleftain's Crown 5-1, 3. Just-Mana-Mou 13-8, 6 ran. 5, 21 ID Graselt, Tota: 22 10; £1.40, £1.20, DF. £3.70, CSF. £7.49, NR: Easy Brezy, Nautcaf George, Script. 2.55: 1. BLACK CHURCH (D O'Sullivan) 6-1: 2. Mirage Dancer 8-1: 3. Rhoman Find 11-4. 5 ran. 4-5 tay Northy (4th) 2, 74 (R Rower, Tote: £9 20; £2.60, £2.00 DF: £11.90, CSF: £39.87, NPs: Little Tom, On

3.25: 1. FANE PARK (G Horan) 6:1: 2. Lady Poly 20-1; S. Father's Joy 16-1 8 cm. 6-4 (a) Neverold (Jul. 19., dist. II. Viells), Total 18.70; £2.10, £6.10, £3.60, .DF. £116.20, CSF. £88.45, Troasu £1,640.56, Tno £95,90 NRst Classic Image, Nidom, Take A Flyer, Amended result: 2nd and 3rd places re-versed after inquiry.

4.00: 1. WINSPIT U Kavanaghi 2-1 tay; 2. Cobb Gete 9-2: 3. Smart in Sable 3-1. 6 ran. 1½., 17 /R Alnest Totas £2.70; £1.50, £2.60. DF: £4.20. CSP £10.48. NR: Star Of Dawd. 4.30: 1, GOLDEN OPAL (G Supple) 6-1; 2. Miss Fern 4-6 tav, 4 ran (2 finished), (b. (R Buckler), Tote: £6.60, DF; £5.00, CSF; £10.63. Sucker, Tota: £6.60, DF, £5.00, CSF; £10.63, 5.00: 1. PYRAMIS PRINCE IM: M Gengell 9-4; 2. Il Bambino 13-8 fox 3. Macedonas 9-1.5 ran. 6, 24, 11 Whytel. Tota: £3.00; C.90; £1.40, DF £3.60, CSF; £6.08, Inot £12.50, NRs: Captain Coe, Mariners Cove, Witcosk, Zir You Ib., Placepot £1.898.80, Quadpot £7.62.60, Place 8: £1.269.39, Place 8: £704.67, MRNLEARTOM

WINCANTON

2.15: 1. HEADWIND (P Hut-13-1; 2. Secret Spring 11-1 tav: 3. Penrose Lad 12: 1. 17 ran. 9, 4, 0 Griord), 7ote: £3.30; £150, £200, £3.60, Dr. £5.60, CSF: £10.95, Tno: £34.40, NR: Modaja). 2.45: 1. TRYING AGAIN (R Durwoody) 8-11 fav, 2. Capenwray 7-2: 3. River Gate 32: 1 9 ran. Dist, 25: 10 Gantofiol, Toter £1.70: £1.10, £1.10, £2.10, DF £3.10, CSF £3.85, Tno £15.20, NRs: Our Wozer, Rose Gartien, Supreme Music.

3.15: 1. FULL OF FIRE (Mr M Armycage) 3.15: 1. FULL OF FIRE I/M M Amylage 5.1: 2. Beauppaire 7-4 for 3. Reel Pro-gloss 4-1. 6 ran. 2. dot. I/R Earley. Tote: £5.30: £2.00. £1.40. DF: £4.10. CSF: £13.35. Tin-cast £30.80. Tino: £3.40. IRIS. Desert Run, Duhallow Louge., Synderborough Lad 3.50: 1. CANNA I. Wen 2:1 fev; 2. Young Tess 8:1; 3. Glengard Girl 3:1, 18 ran. 3. 20 in Graham, Tobs £2:90: £1:50, £1:90, £1:50. Pr: £11:00. C5f: £1748. Tho: £30.40, NRs: Jaunty June, Lady Ness.

4.20: 1. OAKLANDS WORD (M.) J. Macsi 6-1: 2. Ming's Treasure 5-1. 3. Bright Burns 9-1. 13 ran. 9-4 far. Still in Business 15th. 4. 13 its Brodest Toter 58.10, £1.20, £1.90, £2.90. DF: £31.00. USF: £36.03. Troi £83.40. NR: Dreams Danzer, Pad Bathor 4.50: 1. JOSEPHA & Thornton 35-1. 2. Manolete 7-2 jt fav; 3. Teen Jay 10-1. 8 ran. 7-2 jt fav Sant Cet. 1, 10-1M McCor-mack. Toter £34.10; £5.10, £1.40, £2.70. DF: £88.90 CSF. £106.69. Incast. £878.42. 5.20: 1. AERDON LICENTOS £1.2. Macsi 5.20: 1. AERDON LICENTOS £1.2. Macsi 5-201 ABRION 10 Spore; 4-1, 2. Went worth 50-1: 3. Warner For Players 3-1 tax 15 ran, 5, 5, 10 Sherwood, Tote: 16-20, C.30, 16-60, 11-20, DF, 1239-90, CSP, £173-93, Troc Not son, NP, All Seen Up, Ser-m Neorite

Place 6: £37,00, Quadpot: £11,10, Place 6: £30 36, Place 6: £19,31,



™EINDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS DONCASTER NEWBURY 982 973 983 974 984

3.05 CYSTIC FIBROSIS RESEARCH CUP HANDICAP

403341 - MEANT TO BE (169) Carly Mary Marriand Lady Henes 6 9 13 ... 316006 - BLAZE AWAY (USA) (239) (Paul Melon) ( Beking 5 9 13 ... 21000-0 - EVEZIO RUPO (23) (T Carlet N Lumoden 4 9 13 ... 111310 - SNAMAN (PRO (160) (b) (Lady Cohery J Dorlog 4 9 10 ... 1510-11 - OID PROVENCE (37) (c) (7) Deason R Hams 6 9 9 ... 10500; SAIR-LOVER (1000) (C) (D S Ham Ms M Revely 8 9 B ... 125515 - TORCH VERT (160) (Paul Green) N Wolfer 4 9 5 ... 100024 Marrian Remains 6 9 4

MONDRAGON (231) (D Young) Mis M Reveley 6 9 4 ..... Shaderman (180) (Cive Barl) R Aletturs 5 9 4 ......

21. BOD Int the body (34.0 (CERT ) 1905 (1905) IN THE BODY (34.0 (CERT) 1905) IN THE BODY (34.0 (CERT) 1905) IN THE BODY (35.0 (CERT) 1905) IN THE BODY (35

UPPER MOUNT CLAIR must have sery chance of pulsing off the double after last year's win from Noufan and Roberty Lea. Being a dual Southwell winner last month she can be expected to revel in the rein-softened ground and her handway mark is the same as 12 months ago. Salamain has been gelded since falling in the Cesarewich. He progressed throughout last season, but this big weight on ground that may not surt him book set him a task. Meant To Be will like the ground and lines up after a recent hundes win at Pump-ton. A game winner at Ascot last October, site is fancied to run well with her wetter burder without actually winning. Blaze Away is another winning hunder who fanished seventh in the Cesarewitch. He won a bad race over hundes here this month and fast ground suffix him much better so his chance may have game after the rain. Sheditives didn't show much in the Cesarewitch and this ground is likely to nove too much cut in it for him, while the former Barry Hills trained Torch Verit makes little appeal despite his sach in the Newmarker marathon.

3.40 WILLIAM HILL SPRING MILE HANDICAP (CLASS B) £20,000 added 1m Penalty Value £15,920

don Brunton; Lord Huntington 5 9 6...... D Han

BARREL OF MOPE (56) (Peter J Watson) J L Eve 4 9 3... KNOBBLEENEEZE (180) (C) (D) (Arthory Andrews) M C

FORM GUIDE

COUNTRY LOVER looks the type for the race with the cut in the ground slowing up the others. He has been racing in Cagnes and shaped well in two beckend mile handscops at Newmarket when the ground was faster than he likes. Samwer had the Lincoln as his target after a stroit in a maiden on Lingheid's Equitosic. Obserpointing when with Barry Nils, he has been sweetened up and will take the beating if coping with the ground. Milhigh had some form with Dick Hem and runs for the first time for Reg Alvehurst, who landed this race with Sharp Prospect lost year. Milster Pine Eyes has a turn taring 10th lower than when successful at Southwell in December. He ran well with a welter burden three weeks ago and looks sure to play a part. Collectful Chole is enother with a fine chance after two hurdle runs (won at Ayr) and a fourth to River Keen at Wolverhampton. This tough mare has won on the course, she aces in the soft and the stable is in great form. Bagshort, a fine sach in last years Luncoln, has dearns at his best, while Neuwest shaped with a deal of promise at Lingheid three weeks ago.

4.10 HOLROYD CONSTRUCTION GROUP HANDICAP C4

— 22 dockteté — BETTINE: 8-1 Assio, Portend, Sir Joey, Tiler, 19-1 Costieree Led, Montaerzai, Sycamore Lodge, 12-1 Bighborn, 14-1 Mister Joison, 18-1 Rendang Rackin, Lord high Admirsi, Rockvijle Piles, 20-1 others 1995: Castlerez Lad 6 8 4 W Ryan 14-1 (R Hollanshead) 22 ran

\_\_J Carrolt 20

10 500-901 Moster Julison (Lat) (b) good morely if Hoogs 7 8 10

17 4060-80 SAMSOLOM (279) Are Daud Brown J Bany 4 8 8.

17 4060-80 SAMSOLOM (20) (CD) (C Hemmand) P Howing 5 8 8

18 411350 AMONTNI (LB2) (6) Metheory Reang Bureau (11) 0 Nochols 4 8 8

20 000300 REMANDI SUN (104) (Trevor Barley M Usher 4 8 7

21 262245 SYCAMORE LODGE (216) M/s J Remedient M/s 1 Remedien 5 8 5

22 023362 TO THE ROOF (184) (M/s P W Hems) P Home 4 8 5

(CLASS C) £7,650 6f Penalty Value £4,898

(CLASS C) £8,000 2m 2f Penalty Value £5,120

C4

J Strek (3) 1

S Dro-ne (3) 1/

...F Lynch (5) 2 .....N Adams 3

NEWBURY 1.50 King Girseach 2.25 Wee River 2.55 The Grey Friar 3.25 5t Mellion Fairway 4.00

GOING: Classes - Good to Soft: Hardles - Soft, Course is SE of town near A11, Pathway stadion (service from London, Paddingtoni adjoma course. ADMISSION: Members 513, Tottersells 58; Silver Pang 51 | OAPs half price. CAR PARK: Free; Pienic area 53 per car plus 53 per person

LONG DISTANCE BUNNERS: Wee River (2.23) has been sent 237 miles by G M Moore from Middleham, N Yorks,

1.50 WANTAGE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 3m 110yds 23-716 ACT OF FAITH (34) N Gastiee 6 11 12 ...... 452313 HARDING (10) (C) & Uelov 5 11 12 ...... 

- 18 declared -BETTING: 11-4 What's Your Story, 4-1 King Girsoach, 6-1 Act Of Falth, 8-1 Welcome Cell, Harding, Penncaler, 12-1 Bullens Ray, 16-1 others

2.25 FARINGDON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 1f 

- 4 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Wee River, 5-2 Southampton, 3-1 Young Snugfit, 4-1 James

2.55 SABIN DU LOIR MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 5f D\* ASHMEAD RAMBLER (18) P HOLDS 6 11 9 . . . G Tormov (3)

2.15 Three Wild Days 2.45 Calthness Cloud

KELSO HYPERION

3.15 Coqui Lane 3.50 Emerald 5torm 4.20 Final Hope 4.50 Shallow River 5.20 Master Nova GOING: Good (Good to Sof: in places) Undulating course Run-in of two furiongs

Course is N of town off B6 R1. ADMISSION: Club \$10, Tattersalls ST (OAPs 54, accommend under-164 free), CAR PARK: Free SIS RACING

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS, Three Wild Days (±15) has been sent 151 miles to T Tate from Talusser. N Yorks. 2.15 PERCY ARMS HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 4YO 2m 2f

OCC THREE WILD DAYS (18) T Tare 10 12 \_\_\_\_\_\_Mr S Swiers
OO WANDERING HANDS (15) S Y.O. osor 10 12 \_\_\_\_\_MM Fester 

2.45 ERIC SCARTH NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 1f 243-33 SRARTS DELIGHT (17) R Alan 6 11 2 L Wyer
242-322 CATHONESS CLOUD (23) C Fang 8 11 2 B Storey
CLUSH SUPREME (50) (85) 7 Moon 7 12 P Carbony
155612 DOWNRY (16) 6 1-27 6 11 2 N Bentley
0-006 DOMNRO NIGHT (66) 3 PC#275 6 11 2 A Dobbin 

3.15 SPORT OF KINGS RACEWEAR HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 2f

3164P1- CASUAL PASS (297) (CD) 1 tungs 13 10 0 ...... F Perrett P-04 MUSIC BLITZ (S3) Mrs D Thomson 5 10 0 ...... G Cabill (5)

Minimum: 10st. Tive n cap weights: Cascal Pass Str 13b, Mack Bluz Stl 2b BETTING: 11-4 Supreme Sowet, 3-1 Cool Linke, 5-1 Coqui Lane, Bram-bleberry, 6-1 Dancing Dave, 8-1 Viell Appointed, 14-1 others

- T declared -

Moment weight Jüst The nicap weight üblichungs 12th, Verde Line 93 25 BETING: 7-4 Hamilton Stit, 7-2 Centeur Express, 4-1 Pedatorhemetol, 6-1 Goldwyn, 8-1 Highly Chambing, Richollos, 25-1 Verde Line

3.50 KING'S OWN SCOTTISH BORDERERS HANDICAP CHASE £6,000 added 3m 1f himmum seept: 10st. Iven icas seepts: Bergen 9st 7th, Easter Oct 9st 3th BETTING: 2-1 Stormy Corol, 11-4 Emerati Storm, 4-1 Cedidh Boy, 6-1 Air's Alibi, 8-1 Wayuphiti, 14-1 Vaynua, 20-1 others

4.20 L. RUTHERFORD (EARLSTON) HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £3,000 added 3m 4f

### Final HOPE (295) P Face 6 12 2 ... Mirs F Needman (1) 2021-2 ROYAL JESTER (23) (C) (8P) J Storey 12 12 2 ... Mr C Storey (5) 033-2 PARLESSE (14) A Wight 7 11 11 ... ... ... ... Mr A Robson (7) 36425 BOW MANDY MAN (148) (D) J Gerson 14 11 10 Mr T Soote (7) 471-4 P J Mr DPPLOMATIC (6) J J Parts 13 11 11 (LMF M Bradburne (7) 44P-U POLITICAL ISSUE (468) (C) T Parson 12 11 10 ... Mr T Distocct (7) 44P-U TOURDEN MANDE (21) W HOUGH 12 11 10 ... Mr T Distocct (7) 44P-U TOURDEN MANDE (21) W HOUGH 12 11 10 ... Mr T Distocct (7) 44P-U TOURDEN MANDE (21) W HOUGH 12 11 10 ... Mr T Distocct (7) 44P-U TOURDEN MANDE (21) W HOUGH 12 11 10 ... Mr T Distocct (7) 44P-U TOURDEN MANDE (21) W HOUGH 12 11 10 ... Mr T Distocct (7) 44P-U TOURDEN MANDE (21) W HOUGH 12 11 10 ... Mr T Distocct (7) 44P-U TOURDEN MANDE (21) W HOUGH 12 11 10 ... Mr T Distocct (7) 44P-U TOURDEN MANDE (21) W HOUGH 12 11 10 ... Mr T Distocct (7) 44P-U TOURDEN MANDE (21) W HOUGH 12 11 10 ... Mr T Distocct (7) 44P-U TOURDEN MANDE (21) W HOUGH 12 11 10 ... Mr T Distocct (7) 44P-U TOURDEN MANDE (21) W HOUGH 12 11 10 ... Mr T Distocct (7) 44P-U TOURDEN MANDE (21) W HOUGH 13 11 10 ... Mr T Distocct (7) 44P-U TOURDEN MANDE (21) W HOUGH 13 11 10 ... Mr T Distocct (7) 44P-U TOURDEN MANDE (21) W HOUGH 13 11 10 ... Mr T DISTOCCT (7) 44P-U TOURDEN MANDE (21) W HOUGH 13 11 10 ... Mr T DISTOCCT (7) 44P-U TOURDEN MANDE (21) W HOUGH 13 11 10 ... Mr T DISTOCCT (7) 44P-U TOURDEN MANDE (21) W HOUGH 13 11 10 ... Mr T DISTOCCT (7) 44P-U T DIST 4.50 FAMOUS GROUSE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (DIV I) £3,500 added 2m 6f 110yds

- 10 decired BETTING: 5-4 Shakov River, 6-1 Desy Days, 8-1 Current Mony, 10-1 Stringslong, Spring Call, Larkish Tower, 12-1 others

5.20 FAMOUS GROUSE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (DIV II) 53,500 added 2m 6f 110yds 

- 10 declared -BETTING: 8-11 Master Nova, 7-1 Desert Brave, Yough Test, 10-1 Garbo's Boy, 12-1 Menmark River, 14-1 The Alemo, 16-1 Others

....W Carson 6

Dane O'Noll (5) 4

....R Roghes 10

stor, 8-1 Ocean Stream, 12-1 Anges Mo-

THE SHIP TO ST Table Table

Commercial to the commercial t

Section by

T. 450 . 500

Barry Hills travited the unbeaten juvenile Royal Appliause for Maktourn Al Maktourn last season and the combination could well click here with newcomer AMEASSADQR, who has son and the combination could well click here with newcomer AMEASSADQR, who has son and the combination for the top class Amenican performer Turkoman and halls from a stable that does well are to the top-class Amenican performer Turkoman and halls from a stable that does well are to the top-class Amenican performer Turkoman and halls from a stable that does well are to the top-class Amenican performer Turkoman and halls from a stable that does well at the first makes and the cold caught a Lartar in by John Gossen. This yard looks to Domak Amenican Photal trotted up at Follegone attenuents so Domak Amenican again with Manasab, marginally fewcomer and five lengths belief in third at Newcastle. Wiretever the result this time, Manasab will at least prefer this celebid in their all Newcastle. Wiretever the result this time, Manasab will at least prefer the celtra funding. Sorbie Tower, a debut rumer at Asocu, does not seem glood test over the celtra funding. Sorbie Tower, a debut rumer at Asocu, does not seem glood test over the celtra funding. Sorbie Tower, a debut rumer at Asocu, does not seem glood test over the celtra funding sorbies and beginning of the all-weather but hardly appeals in this type of mace, but Retriand Harmon's Only could be the all-weather but hardly appeals in this type of mace, but Retriand Harmon's Only could be the all-weather but hardly appeals in this type of mace, but Retriand Harmon's Only could be

Castlerea, Lad has drawn the same stall as last year when he bear Domulla and Selformage: He has just 3th more on his back compared to 12 months ago, but the softer ground has to be a worry. Two of today's mals, Highborn and Mister Jelson , breshed eighth and hinth last year. This pair get a pull of 9th and 20th respectively so are in with a shoot in this tricky somit. But the likely winner with the ground to suit is ANZIO, who bear a horse rated 87 (Inherent Magic in a Lingfield claimer last time. Claimed for 6,000 guineas afterwards and now with Gay Helberray, Anzo has a fine chance with all those below For The Present height a lower rating than inherent Magic. The Happy Fox finished last season with a castling fourth to Croft Poot here, while Tiller was impressive at York in August and could have progressed enough to bear Castlerea Lad again on the 10th worse terms. Portend has not zeced since April but won at this fixture last year.

Selection: ANZIO

# Riley plays the professional to perfection

ANDY FARRELL reports from Lisbon

Wayne Riley's image is not what it was. Even John Daly, the original wild man of golf, has relabelled him the "mild colonial

That his head was not separated from his torso yesterday as putts bubbled all over the Aroeira greens enabled Riley to record a 65 in the Portuguesc

shots behind the first round leader, Klas Eriksson of Sweden. "I was what you might call a colourful character," Riley said.

"But now you can come and watch me as much as you like and it will be fairly boning. I am more professional. Playing in the second match

of the day, the Australian took advantage of virtually untouched too much trouble with his times hitting short iron shots to within 18 inches of the hole. At the 504-yard 15th, he got within two feet with a driver and 3-iron to set up an eagle.

Then it was a matter of bolding together the score, and the head, over the (already trampled) front nine. "It was always in the back of my mind that the front nine was coming up," he said. "The greens are no one's fault, it's just the weather, but a relief after 10, sometimes upthey look as if they ran the

Grand National over them. You need a bit of luck."

Riley has a base in Surrey and is a member at Camberley Heath, to which, minus the beather, the treelined Arocira course is comparable. The pro there. Gary Smith, is his coach and spent time recently with Rilev in Australia. Victory at last summer's Scottish Open at Carnoustie, over the likes of Faldo and Montgomerie, came as

Britain, he kicked a ball off a green in full view of the TV cameras and at an event in France his then girlfriend considered the best way to deliver an ice cream was to run across a green in high heels. "I didn't

get fined for that one," he said. "When I was young, I was perceived as being hot-headed. But now I am 33 and everybody grows up. For eight years, golf was my profession, but I was more interested in going round

time to play more seriously.

Almost a metre of rain bas fallen in the Lisbon area since November, hampering preparations of the course, but it took a delay of more than two hours for early-morning fog to get a new entry in the catalogue of bad weather stories on this year's tour. Several players will have to complete their rounds: this morning. Of the later starters, only Cambridge's Rus-

came close to threatening Eriksson's course record of 63.

The first thing the 24-year-old does when arriving at a new destination is find a gym for his daily hour's weightliffing. In nearby Caparica, he walked 500 yards from his botel and found an establishment that caters mainly for the retired.

After two years on tour plagued by a wrist tendon problem. Eriksson is stronger and

At his first tournament in the world baving a good time. sell Claydon, who matched longer off the tee than ever tritain, he kicked a ball off a When I got to 29, I decided it was Ricky Willison's earlier 66, "Weightlifting is also psychological," he added. Eriksson has iled to make a cut in four events this year but having bogeyed the fourth, he atoned to the tune of nine birdies in the next 11 holes.

PORTUGUESE OFEN Myroeina, or Lictoon Early teading Sest round accres (CE or lef unless stands: 83 K Effector ISNet, 95 W Piley Plasse 68 R Wisson; R Clinicon, 67 H Sorrago (Spt.) Henggran (Sas); I Cocces (Agg. U Sata (Port. P Haugarus (Nor), 68 R Ratieny, M McLean; M Gonzberg (Sae); M Besamothey Frit O Vertacon, Seet; D Stripte P Lithart (Spt.; F Lindgran (Sive), 68 T Counts (Mort.) Prome R Meantz (Wett).

## Working up a sweat in a shopping centre

Mike Rowbottom watches the world's best squash players show off their skills in a tournament with a strange setting

Tokyo and Qatar, the squash Super Series has shifted to a less cosmopolitan venue for its playoffs this week... Hatfield.

The theory behind this choice is that putting the sport in a nontraditional location will spark much-needed new interest. Thus it was that the world's eight leading players, including Pakistan's perennial world champion, Jansher Khan, found themselves in the Galleria shopping centre on a rainy Thursday.

Amid potted palm trees and pay-per-ride children's batmohiles, they laboured mightily on a perspex court set up in the central well of a building vast enough to house aircraft. Far beneath their feet - such is the centre's ambitious construction – ran the A1. Above their heads, a ring of intrigued faces stared down from the first floor balcony.

Some of these unofficial spectators, like John and Joan Hogg, a retired couple from nearby Codicote, had come in the knowledge that the event was on. Both had played squash regularly in their youth, but even that did not guarantee an extended attendance, as Joan made clear. "I was just saying

about this as a spectator sport, because I'm quite happy to go." He said he just wanted to hear

the score first." But Brian Evans, a 55-yearold refrigeration engineer from Cambridgeshire, was already making plans to return at the weekend having noticed the

event while on a shopping trip. Evans had a special interest. as a player for Eynesbury Hardwick in the Cambridgeshire Squash League for the last 25 years. But he acknowledges that the sport has a fundamental problem which no amount of novelty venues can alter.

"Unfortunately squash is not a spectator sport, especially on television. It all looks quite easy watching from up here. You don't realise how fit you have to be to reach all those shots."

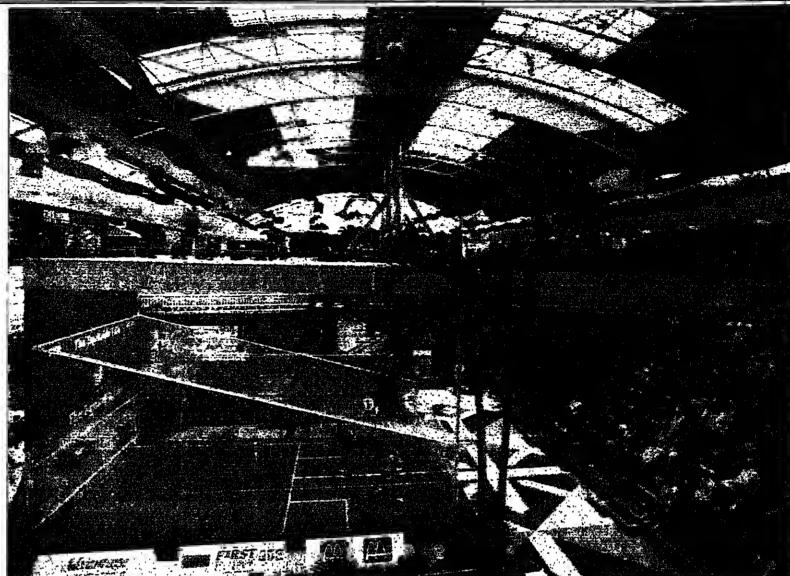
the sport in this country since the boom years of the early 1980s. "We used to have 400 members, Now we are down to 60. I am playing all the people I used to play 15 years ago because the youngsters are not coming through any more. They don't want to get sweaty. I think."

Getting sweaty did not rep-

to John. What do you think resent a problem for Chris Walker, England's world No 7, who defeated the world No 2. Rodney Eyles, in the opening round obin match. But the plaving environment, far brighte: and busier than was ideal, took a little adjusting to.

"Once we are in the court it's like our office," Walker said. "We are in there and we do the business. Every now and again you notice someone walking past the side wall, but we tend to concentrate on the ball even harder than usual in a perspex court because it is not easy to see."

As the third most prestigious competition in squash behind the British and World Opens, the Super Series corresponds to the grand prix circuit in international athletics, and these play-offs, sponsored by Equitable Life, offer £30,000 in prize-money - a respectable figure in a sport not overly endowed with cash. The 400 paidfor seats are sold out for the final days of competition tomorrow and Sunday. But the main target audience, as ever, is televisual - Sky is broadcasting highlights to 15 countries on Easter Sunday, reaching an estimated 100 million viewers.



The perspex squash court in a Hatfield shopping centre, which is the venue for the World Super Series event this week

#### Hamed dismisses his rivals

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Naseem Hamed delivered his usual set of predictions yesterday after sizing up possible oppo-nents. The World Boxing Organisation featherweight of Puerto Rico. or the International Boxing Federation champion, American Tom Johnson, in London in May or early June.

His promoter Frank Warren, having dismissed the claims of the British pair, Colin McMillan and Duke McKenzie.

expects to finalise the title defence next week. He has pencilled in another fight in July then a September or October match with the World Boxing Council super-featherweight champion, Azumah Nelson.

Hamed said: "I rate Alicea a good, young, strong fighter, feated challenger Daniel Alicea. but I will probably give him three rounds. Johnson is getting past it and looks a bit chinny. He will go in less than that.

"Nelson is a legend and I can't wait to meet him. They say he is too strong but at 37, and against my punching, he will be stopped in less than eight rounds."

## JUST THE TICKET: A guide for the sporting spectator

TODAY

tinues today to complete the erroy to the World Champtorship starting neet month at the Cucuble Thearts in Sheffield. Stocen go through from Telford and their names will be drawn at random to play the vontr's leading 16 players, aready sected in the first round. The draw will be made on BBC Grandstand at 5pm tomorow. Admission: £1 hoor session; £1.50. £6pm session. All eight matches are best of 19 traines inne and 10 in the session. Telford International Centre, 51 Quentin's Gate. Telford, Stropphre. (Ict: 01952 291919). Teiford, Shropshire, ffel: 01952 291919), SQUASH: Equitable Life Super Senes play-off finals (Hatfield), lansher Khan, the World No 1, with Del Hams and Mark Chaloner from Britain, are among the eight leading players who have been most successful at the eight lournaments which compares the international Super Senes of Squash, played around the world last year. Play in the finals continues today on a round-robin formst at 3pm and 6pm and form of the moreover at 1pm and 4pm, when two matches will be played in each session. The foundable of the final at 2,30pm. Admission: 101 today and tomorrow; £12 on Sunday, followed the final at 2,30pm. Admission: £10 today and tomorrow; £12 on Sunday. The Gatlena Outlet Certifie is just off £1 at Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

tonishine. SWIMMING: Option 8 mush Olympic Trials (Sheffield, Two hundred and fifty men and 240 women, representing 125 clubs, will contest 26 events and places m Britain's heam for Atlanta. Among the men. Mark Fosiar, from the City of Cardiff Club, has yet to win an Olympic media but this time is one of Britain's best prospects in the freestyle. Also on form are risck Gillingham, the City of Britaingham breactatrole swirmer who won bronze it Barcelona and Paul Palmer, of Lincoln Pentagua, now back to his best after lithess ruled. Barcelona and Paur Palmer, of Lincoln Pen-rapus, now book to its best after lithes ruled him out of the Commonwealth Games and World champenships. Name Richeng, from Ipswich, is the first Brisish woman to win a world short-course site, gives in the 100m and 200m freestyte. Heats are at 9am daily, with finals from 4pm, Admission; Ponds Forge Interna-tional Sports Centre, Shad Street, or sheffled city centre. Tel: 0114-278-9199.

FOOTBALL: FA Carling Premiership, End-sleigh League and Bell's Scottish League. RUGBY LEAGUE: SA Cur Cratienge Cup sem-mai: Bradford v Leeds 12.151 (at Alfred McAlpine stadium, Huddertifeld).

HOCKET: Women's Rabonal League.

RACTING Flast meetings in capitals! DON-CASTER: Club £16, Grandstand £10; Family Endoure £4 under 16s free £8 endosures.

(2.0). LINEFIELD IAN Weather! Members £13, Tepersalls £9, Saver Ring £5, 10.255.

Bamgor: Paddock £8; Course £4 under 16s free all endosures! (2.10). Newbury: N'embers £13; Temersals £8. Saver Ring £3 (0-25 nat) endour. 1.0!. half poco: (1.0).

pers. £13; Terrerails EB. Silver Ring £3 (04%) half price (1.0).

BOWLS: National Champion of Charmons Singles Remibridge). The linal stages start with three sessions tomorous at 100m, 1.45pm and 4.30pm. The semi-finals are on Sunday at 100m, followed by the final x2 pm Spectating is hive. Warner Sembridge Indoor Bowling Cub. Fisherman Walle, Lare End, Bernbridge, Ede of Wight. (Tel' 01983 87,4967).

GREYHOUND RACING: Day Mirror/Sporing Life Grant Reported Semi-finals (Walfarmston). Regal St Legar Final (Sunderland).

GYMMASTICS: Emis Phythmic Championships (Blotchley). Semions and juniors compete for the overall title removers and stellarding gift girmasts in each discipline qualify for the industrial title as that if 1.2m therefore, belowed by the semiors at 2.30pm. The minimum title in finals start at 2.250 on Sunday. Day admission: £4 admis. £2 chatcher/Output. Lesting Centire, Princes Way, Betchley, Million Remoss (fer 0.1993 3777251.

LACROSSE: Clubs and Colleges Tournament.

LACROSSE: Clubs and Colleger Tournament (Cotham), St Thomas's and Guy's Hospitals Spots Ground, Stoke d'Abemon, Cotham, Sur-

rey. NETBALL: Interroppinal Match. Engand v Wates (Bectard). The major at the Bunyan Con-tre in Bedford is a self-out.

FOOTBALL: Coca-Cola Cup final Astron Villa v Loods (5.0) vur Weittbleyt, FA Carting Pre-miership: Manchester Utd v Tottenham (4.0) Encilorer insurance League First Drivson: Huc-

#### PICK OF THE DAY THIS WEEKEND/Rallying

Vauxhall Rally of Wales Chester -

Alister McRae won the Vauxhait Ralbecome champion. He will be back he is not contesting the Formula 2 championship, driving instead a Ford Escort Cosworth with the intention of making the step up to World rallying level and joining his brother Colin. Chester is the base for 150 miles of forest stages as the drivers take up the challenge today of tricky gravel surfaces in north and mid-Wates: A new 2.3and will be held under floodlights

5323.
HOCKEY: International Matches: Women: England v France I 1.15); Ment: England v India (3.15). (Alifton Keynes). The International Academy of the National Hockey Stadium at Alifton Keynes begins a sense of of high-profile matches in the run-in to the Olympic Garries, Seast: consend £10, family owered £30; uncorrect £7.50 autus, £5 puriors, family uncovered £7.50 family. £5 puriors, £8.50 puriors,

Next week

Next week
POTRALL (1.30 unless stated): Monday:
FA Carling Premierahip: Soutnamotor v
Coverty (3.0). Endsteigh insurance Leegue
Third Dhirdson: Docuster v Mansheld, GM,
Vaunas Contreme: Departmen and Reconday
Ram, Herzestorf v Streenage (7.45). Tuesday: Esmopean Under-21. Chemplomahip
quarter-final second-legt Scottand v Hungoy (at Easter Road). Is Internetional Northend Heland / Horvey Overpor of lat Coleraine).
Endsteigh Insurance Leegue Second Division: Birstor-Road). MultiRoddeligh Insurance Leegue Second Division: Birstor-Road). Whole Moter County, Petercorough v Blackpool (7.45): Wycombe v
Bradfort (7.45): Wyc Bournerouth. Third
Division: Chester v Cambridge Utd: Futham
v Leynon Chest. (7.45). Herstor v Lincain: Pestor v, Bury, Scottprop v Exeter. GM Vaun-Visyon Chem. (1.45), Herstord v Lincoln: Pre-stor v Burr, Scurrords v Esser, GM Vasar-hall Conferences: Dover v Weding (1.45), Halts: Scurroct (1.45), MacDessed v Nort-wck (1.45), Tethord v Noing (1.45) Wedness-day, International Matchess: England v Budgara 8.01 or Wentbert: Hormome Preson v Norway (at Windoor Park, Bellast): Repub-lic of Instant v Husse (at Landowne Read, DutSni): Scutland v Australia (8.0) (at Ham-pider Park), Endaleigh Insurance League First Division: Protrocytiv Pon Vale, GM Vaushall Conference: Gatestead v Atmorran (7.45). RUGBY LEAGUE: Friday: Stones Super

7 25; RUGBY LEAGUE: Friday: Stones Super League: Pars / Stoffed: (7.30). Marches: Cross Rers / Near '7 0): Gumorgan Wan-deres / Treothy / 7 0). South Wales Police / Penarth / 7 0., Twetton / Eletter / 15; Tre-degar / Portypot: (7.0. Wadnesday: Clab Match: Mosele; / RAF (7.30)

on the promenable at New Brighton on the Winal peninsula tonight from Spm. To supplement the champing on ships classes, the classic and sportscar relly, held tomorrow, will provide a view of stately cars from testervier.

Vesteryear.

Where to webct; The raty starts today from Chester recoourse at 2pm. Singe one; Clocaeting Forest East flest art 2.04pm; B5105 south-west of Ruthur, David, Stages Four Persons South-west of Ruthur, David, Stages Four Persons South-421pm; south of Burya-b-Coed of Perimachric Village, Corinedd, on 1850: Stage the: Perimachric North (4:44par, perfurg is in village for right near churchy; Stage seven and right: Euro World (8:14par); one mile from

indig th Association for the State Tolerand Collegation, Promysi, Firer's Gam at Chester rice; Course.

free!; Tatternalis £8.50. (First nos 1.50). Forthwell: Club £12; Jumer Club £12 to 15-year-olds! £2, under £2s free; Tatternalis £8 (accompanie) under £16 free; Stater Ring £4. (2.10). Headham: Club £9; Paddock £6 (DAPs £4), £20. Tuesday, NEWASTLE: Club £12; Tatternalis £9; Saver Ring £4. (2.2 for CAPs and registered disabled). (2.30). Humingdom: Members £12; Paddock £8; Course £4. (2.20). Sandown: Club and Grandstand (combined) £12; Annor Club £16 - 25yrs; £10; Saver Ring £4. (2.10). Wednesday; CATT-ERCIC Club £11; Tatternalis £9; Saver Ring £6. (2.10). Chepatow: Club £14; Tatternalis £9; Saver Ring £5. (2.10). Chepatow: Club £14; Tatternalis £9; Saver Ring £5. (2.10). £12; Tatternalis £9; Saver Ring £5. (2.10). £12; Tatternalis £9; Saver Ring £6. (2.20). £12; Tatternalis £9; Saver Ring £6. (2.10). £12; Tatternalis £9; Saver Ring £6. (2.10). £12; Tatternalis £9; Coursy £3, Cap £4. (2.25). Alimitree: Coursy £10; Tatternalis £9; Coursy £3, Cap £6. (2.20). Ludlow: Club £14 (accompanied under £6. (2.10). Friday: LinkGFIELD (AW); as Wednesday. (2.20). Alimitree: as Thursday, (2.0). Ludlow: Club £14 (accompanied under £6. free;); Tatternalis £9; CAP £4; CLUS £15; Sedgaffeit: Paddock £8 (DAPs £4); Course £2. (2.10). NEXT WEEKEND

ar Party: Liverpool v Notingram Forest (4.0) ta Old Traillord).

RILERY LEAGUE: Saturdary: Stones Simer League: Halfar v London Broncos (5.20): Old-harm v Wigan (6.0) tat Boundary Park, Old-harm v Wigan (6.0) tat Boundary Park, Old-harm). Sundary: Stoness Super League: Bradford Bulls v Casdefortt Leads v Warmaghor: Workington Town v St Helens.

RILGRY UNION: Saturdary: Courage Cubs' Championship, Henreken Weish League, in-surance Corporation League, Tennens. 1556 Cup fifth round. Wiles Corpon Trophy: Army v Royal Navy (3.0) fat Twickenharm).

RACINIC: Saturdary: BEVERLEY: Club £12: Junior Club (16 to 21-year-olds) £8; Tattersals; £8; Sierer Ring £3; Course Enclosure £2: Picruc area £2 or £2 per car, plus £2 per occupant. (2.0). WOLVERHAMPTON (AW): Entrance £6; additional £15 for entrance to Vesting Rectaurant; additional £15.90 for medi. (7.0). Allattree: County Ammer Roof £65; Cupen Mother Stand Roof or reserved seat £55; Cernivel Stand £45; County Lawn £29; Tattersals £16 (Chut £4; Steeplechae seat £55; Cernivel £12; Steeplechae £5; L1,35). Horsdord: Club £12; Tattersals £9; course enclosure £6, 11, 20).

Undate

In recognition the European football championship being staged in England for the first time, Sir Bodby Charlton is impating a nationwide search for individuals who have made significant contributions to the development of contributions to the development or youth football in their communities.

The search, entitled "MasterCard's Football Ambassadors of England" with be conducted in the cities of the eight Euro 96 venues - London, Birmangham, Nothingham, Sneffield, Leeds, Newcastle, Livernorland Manchester One castle, Liverpool and Manchester, One

ambassador from each city will be se-lected, plus one other representative from outside these venues. Individuals can be nominated and must have fostered the growth of youth football, either locally, in cities, regionally or nationally in England and have been, or currently are, an ad-

ministrator, teacher, coach or fund-raiser for youth football. The nine ambassadors will be selected by a panel of
footbal journaliss, officials and Sir Bobby Charlton, who has spent 20 years
developing youth programmes.
Letters of nomination should be sent
to Sir Bohby Charlton, c/o MesterCard
International, The Limes, 123 Mortlafes
High Street, London SW14 8SN by 10
April and should Include the nominee's
name, address and telephone number.

name, address and telephone number. Five finalists will be selected per host

Plan ahead

The populanty of the tennis at Wimbledon has meant that demand for seats has for many years exceeded supply. If you have falled to obtain a ticket through the annual ballot and are not a member of the All England Club, a debenture holder or affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association, there is, however, electric of members of tennis property. plenty of opportunity to follow the leading players hone their grass game prior to the Championships.

In the build-up to Wimbledon, five surnaments offer top competition, though seats on the centre court at Queen's Club, London, for the Stella Artotal Sampionships have already sold out, with only returns evallable. There are, however, 1,500 daily ground ad-mission tickets for the first five days and mssion tickets for the first five days and these can be booked in advance. While the world's leading players adjust to the pace of the grass, hopefuls will be attempting to join them in the first round of the Championships at the pre-qualifying tournament at Surbiton lawn Ternis Ciub, Benylands, Surbiton, Surrey from the 11 to 14 or 15 June

and then the main qualifying event at the Bank of England Sports Club, Pri-ory Lane, Roehampton, London SW15. Both compensions create their own special atmosphere and spectating is free. The Championships are from 24 June Section to Open (International man and women), 4-9 June (qualifying 3 June).

Admission: Monday (qualifying) free; Tuesday £7 adulta, accompanied children under 16 £3.50; Wednesday/Thursday £9, £4.50; Fri-day £11, £5.50; Saturday/Sunday £15 (one

Admission: ground £8 per day wall Friday, Sa-urday/Sunday £40 centre court tretums only. Taker holline: 0172-413-1414; bookings from 17 April.

Admission: Sourcity and Sunday qualifying, Monday and Tuesday £4; Wednesday £5; Thursday £7; Felday £5; Saturday £12; Sun-day £14, Season ticlet: £40, Children under £6 are half-price. Ticket office: 0121 605 7000.

City of Nottingham Tennis Centre, Universit Boulevard, (Tel: 0115 922 0313). Boulevaru. (NE: 0115 922 0313). Admission: Saturtae and Sunday qualifying: free; Monday to Friday: ground £4, rover £7; Saturday: £11 cerue court; Sunday: £13 cer-tre court. Season ficiet: £40. Ticket office: 011\$ 941 9741. Direct Line insurance international Women's Championships, 18-22 June (qualifying 15-17 June).

Admission: Saturday to Monday qualifying £4; Monday cantre court £11, £10.50, Tuesday: archies cause court £11, £10.50, Taesday, grund £6, centre court £12.50, £12; Wednesday, grund £6, centre court £13,50, £13; Thursday, grund £6, centre court £15.50, £15; Hiday, strund £6, centre court £17, £16.50; Saturday, centre court £19, £18.50, Box office: 01323 412000.

Details of forthcoming events with information on tickets and venues should be sent to: The Sports Desk The Independent, 1 Cana-da Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL Fax: 0171 293 2894.

Compiled by Paul Maher

#### **SPORTS LETTERS**

Big is beautiful

From Mr T Hallett Sir: I knew that some day the excellent writings of Alan Watkins on rugby 12 March 1996 would flush me out. Of course I am biased as the Chair man of Twickenham Redevelopment and now the RFU secretary. My dispute with him lies not in the word "spirit", with which we are wholly united, but on his perception that the effect a large stadium creates is neither magnificent nor conducive. to spectator atmosphere.

I hope be had his decibel. counter out for last Saturday. England v Ireland, when the noise could be heard as far as Cheltenham where some of. the Irish were still counting their money. I believe he is a veritable traditionalist who enjoyed the "shed like" atmosphere of yesterday when enough players who are world spectator and player alike class while the Sri Lankans are were given scant regard.

Twickenham holds in addition to its 75,000 spectators, a record safety undertaking alowing easy access and clear ines of vision, albeit from further back. Field glasses are permitted and so is singing. Other attributes which add

where the past did not are the bars, restaurants, shops, youth centre, museums and other places of pre-match worship, where so much atmosphere is generated, where so many friends can now enjoy the modern stadium where in the past these were denied. I would like to invite Mr

Watkins to a full tour of the Twickenham Experience culminating with lunch in either Obelensky's or Wakefield's restaurant. I will lay some money on him writing differently about Twickenham in the future after relishing its merits. Yours sincerely TONY HALLETT

Sri Lanka deserved it

From Mr T Saul -

Secretary RFU

Sir: As a long-standing sup-porter of Sri Lanka's cricket team, I should not crow about the victory in the World Cup, but I find the patronising tone adopted by TV commentators and newspapers (even includ-ing the *Independent*'s leader) somewhat distasteful:

An untruth perpetrated in the media is that the Sri Lankan ascendancy bas been unexpected and sudden. But remember when in 1984, three er Sidath Wettimuny hit 190. still the highest Test score for a debutant at Lord's, and England were saved from a hopeless position by rain. Since then, despite a few setbacks. ly gained in confidence. Wet-

Lord's Test match. The open-

timumy is now a selector for the world champions: despite the undeniable "internal bickering", there is continuity, and outgoing star players are quickly recycled into the administration. Compare England, where Ian Botham once ruefully commented that be was 20 years too young to be

considered as a selector.

Beyond administration, there is the question of talent - if only England had 11 cricketers with half the natural ability of the Sri Lankans. The simple reason why English cricket is in longterm decline is that there are not well set to realise their stated goal of being dominant in world cricket by the turn of the cen-

Then there is team spirit. Throughout the World Cup. teams which rely on one or two superstars have perished when the superstars have failed to perform. By contrast, the Sri Lankans are truly a team: their batting line-up is so powerful that two or three can fail and the side still score prodigiously. Moreover, in a country be

set by racist terrorism, the XI included a Tamil among the Sinhalese majority, and Muttiah Muralitharan was a vital part of his team. Further, Sri Lanka won

every game they played by a convincing margin. Every other team in the competition was defeated, and only South Africa were not defeated at least twice. When, after the final, Ar-

avinda de Silva picked up the man of the match award, Sanath Jayasuriya the "most valuable player award, and Arjuna Ranatunga the World Cup itself, Sri Lanka's domination of the tournament was all-too obvious. Yours, jubilantly failing the Tebbit test, TOM SAUL Condon SE26

Letters should be marked "For publication" and should contain daytime and evening phone numbers. They should be sent to Sports Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, London E14 5DL. years after acceding to 1851 sta-tus, Sri Lanka played their first sons of space. They may be shortened for reaconfusi reigns vo 1 ran

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# Confusion reigns in No 1 race

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> JOHN ROBERTS reports from Key Biscayne

A degree of confusion appears to be afflicting the ATP Tour. The rankings computer is re-gargitating world No 1s at an astonishing rate and even the most attentive competitors appear to have become prone to lanses of memory. The other week Pete Sampras

was taken aback when asked about his prospects of collecting a third consecutive title in Indian Wells, California, "1 don't think I've won the tournament two years in a row, have I?" was his response.

While Sampras is hardly likely to experience amnesia when quizzed about the possibility of a fourth successive Wimbledon singles championship in July, every title counts. His successful defence in Indian Wells 12 months ago, for example, was the first of five victories which enabled him to end the year as world No I for the third time in a row.

Andre Agassi needs no

prompting to recall that his win against Sampras in the final of the Lipton Championships here on the tip of Florida last year completed his elevation to No 1 for the first time.

A change at the head of the game was then still a rare occurrence. Since the start of the year, however, there has been a shuttle service. Sampras was replaced by Agassi, who was supplanted by Thomas Muster, only the 13th player to become No 1. ent, with different styles of play since rankings began in 1973.

The Austrian king of clay courts lasted a week before making way for Sampras, who theo failed to repeat his form in Indian Wells, losing to the Dutchman Paul Haarhuis in the quarter-finals.

This allowed Muster to rise again, and here lie is yet to win again, and here he is yet to win i jury, is the only disappointment a four match while reigning as for the organisers of the tour-the No. 1. Having exhausted mantent, which offers total prizetheir jibes about Muster's feet of money of \$4.1m (£2.7m).

lay when he was promoted the first time, Sampras and Agassi must now accept that their own shortcomings have helped to lift him back to the summit.

"li's not like I have some sort of vendetta against Thomas," Sampras said. "He is the best player in the world on clay. As far as him being the best play-er on anything but clay. I don't quite swallow that quite as well. He had a phenomenal year, winning the French Open and 10 other clay-court tournaments. I didn't do well in Australia, and it just so happens that he snuck up and became No 1.

"It really just comes down to the end of the year. That is when you add and subtract all of your points. The final ranking is the true indication of who the best player in the world is."

That thought will be running through several minds. Currently, Muster leads Sampras by just 19 points and is only 608 points ahead of the fourthplaced Michael Chang, who is closing in on Agassi after defeating him in the quarter-finals at Indian Wells, and has Boris Becker at his heels. All of which delights the ATP

Tour's chief executive, Mark Miles. "I'm not apologising for Thomas Muster being No 1 for a second. Just look at his record over the previous 52 weeks," Miles said. "I'm absolutely thrilled - how could you not be - that we could actually have a real race of four or five persons split between the United States and Europe. They are all great champions, and they are differand different personalities.

The women's tour would welcome similar activity, and trusts that Iva Majoli and Anke Huber will continue to make progress and generate a serious challenge to Steffi Graf and Moni-ca Seles. Seles sabsence from the Lipton, because of a shoulder in-



## Hyde on a hiding to nothing against Stevenage

Non-League notebook RUPERT METCALF

Tomorrow Hyde United will try to do what no GM Vauxhall . Conference club has managed to do in recent weeks, and beat Stevenage Borough, The Cheshire club, currently second in the UniBond League Premier Di-. vision, take on the Conference lowed by six at Slough. With leaders at their Ewen Fields two games in hand, they lead

ground in the pick of the FA Umbro Trophy quarter finals.

Last weekend's 4-1 thrashing of Kidderminster extended Stevenage's unbeaten Conference run to 17 matches, of which they have woo 13, with 52 goals scored and only 15 conceded. In their last two league away games they have scored 11. goals: five at Stalybridge fol-

second-placed Hednesford by six points - an advantage they could extend even further when, unless they are involved in a Trophy replay, they travel to Hednesford on Monday.

It is a formidable task for Hyde but under their manager, Mike McKenzie, they have tasted defeat just twice in 12 games against Conference opposition and, only last week, they overcame the Conference champ-

ions, Macclesfield Towo, to reach the final of the Cheshire Senior Cup. Onc Hyde player Stevenage will have to watch closely is the highly rated striker Ged Kimmins, a curreot England noo-League internalional, who scored all his side's goals in their 4-0 Trophy second

round win over Welling. Elsewhere in the quarterfinals another UniBond League club, Dave Sutton's Chorley.

entertain Gateshead, There is one all-Conference tie (Bromsgrove against Northwich) while Macclesfield travel to the Beazer Homes League side, Gresley Rovers, whose management team is Paul Futcher and Garry Birtles.

The UniBond League club Droylsden have named Arthur Albiston, the former Manchester United full-back, as their new manager.

#### Stonyhurst | maintain their proud record

**Rugby Union** PAUL MORGAN

Stonyhurst College continued their prolific run in sevens competitions this season by lifting the national schools' title at Rosslyn Park yesterday with a 29-10 win over Glantaf. Stonyhurst, the old school of

the England player, Kyran Bracken, arrived at the world's largest sevens competition with six wins out of six this season and duly made it seven with the former England schools fullhack, lain Balshaw, taking a leading role.
Balshaw, who scored 16

times in the competition, struck twice in the final as his side surged into a 29-0 lead. The speedy winger, Dipo Alli, started the scoreboard moving for Stonyhurst, winners in 1949, in this year's final with a lengthof-the-field run, in treacherous conditions.
Tough tackling from Glantaf.

who hammered Will Carling's old school. Sedbergh, in the semi-finals, held Stonyhurst off until Balshaw struck, Chipping ahead from half-way, Balshaw sent his side into a 12-0 lead that they never looked like losing, Anthony Rodgerson followed Balshaw over, this time from 60 yards. Glantaf struck back with two late tries from Owen Jones and Michael Lord.

Stonyhurst's win was made all the more impressive by the presence of Steve Evans and Richard Crayford, who have played for Cardiff's first team this season, in the Glaotaf

Stonyhurst only reached the final with a wio in the dying secoods against Wimbledon, Mark Morris finishing a 60-yard move to scal a 21-15 victory. After Balshaw had given them the lead, an 80-yard burst from Alli put them 14-0 clear before Wimbledon fought hack in vain.

Glantaf, who now head for a Welsh Schools Cup semi-final on Monday, reached the last four with a titanic quarter-final

victory over Hawthorn. Trailing 7-0, Glantaf battled back with Iries from Andrew McDonagh, Lord and Crayford to take the match 17-7.

Shell vesterday confirmed that it would be backing the oational sevens until the year 2000 with a £160,000 sponsorship deal. The 1997 event should also have a fifth compeution, with the introduction of an Under-16 schools/colts tournament

nament.
Rosslyn Parik National, schlools sevENS: Shth round (for Group winners): Basssieg 22 51 Olear's 10; Hymers 0 Wimbledon
College 31; John Faster 12 Hampton 31; Sicoates 10 Hamborn 28; Gunnersbury 0 Storyharst 32; Matheld 19 Warunds 26; Poclaingson
12 Sechergh 33; Glernaf 24 Mourn, St.
Kany's 19; Quarter-finals: Bassaleg 5 Storyhurst 24; Hampton 19 Sedbergh 29; Wimbledon College 29 Warunds 19; Hawthorn 7
Glentof 17. Semi-finalis: Storyhurst 21
Wimbledon College 15; Sedbergh 5 Glennaf
31. Finals: Storyhurst 29 Glentaf 10.

## Lara may face rap over row

Cricket

The talented but temperamental world record-breaking batsman, Brian Lara, may be summoned before the West Indies Cricket Board of Control's disciplinary committee after an aftercation with the West Indies' trainer, Dennis Waj≘ht.

Fellow passengers alleged that Waight, an Australian, and Lara were involved in a heated exchange on the plane journey from India to London after the World Cup. Waight has trained the West Indics since 1978. Lara has been embroiled in more than one controversy over

the past year, when his status as a likely future West Indies' captain has been undermined. He incurred a fine for breaches of discipline during the 1995 tour of England and then withdrawing from the subsequent World Series in Australia.

The Trinidadian left-hander has pulled out of tomorrow's one-day friendly against New Zealand in Kingston, Jamaica.

because of a niggling knee in-jury. The new West Indies' captain, Courtney Walsh, who has a mild dose of influenza, has also withdrawn from the match and will not play in Tuesday's first one-day international against the New Zealanders.

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The Barbadian all-rounder Ouis Gibson has been ruleil out of the series because of a groin injury which restricted his appearances in the World Cup.

Walsh has called on his predecessor, Richie Richardson, to rescind his decision to retire from international cricket. Richardson resigned as the West Indies' captain during the World Cup, and also said he would not be playing any further international cricket.

"At the time he made the announcement he had a lot on his shoutders. He has had a few days away and can sit back and decide what he wants to do. Walsh said, "I would love to have him around for some time, to have his experience in the batting. I think he has a lot more to offer to West Indies'

## **Crisis threatens grant**

Cycling

British cycling's governing body could have a Sports Council grant of more than £500,000 withdrawn if they fail to resolve their leadership crisis, Jonathan O'Neill, the Sports

Council spokesman, issued the warning vesterday before a British Cycling Federation emergency national council meeting in Manchester tomorrow, when 70 delegates will be asked to endorse the board's vote of no confidence in the president, Tony Doyle.

The board want the meeting to cancel Doyle's appointment mercial interests.

and to elect a caretaker chairman until the next full national council meeting in November. But counter-proposals will seek to pass votes of no confidence in the board and to demand the resignations of three directors.

Doyle, the former world pursuit champion, was elected president in December after an acrimonious campaign against lan Emmerson, the former incumbent. A row crupted when Doyle - who acts as a consultant for the Sport for Television Group - was asked to resign just three weeks atter his election hecause of an alleged failure to declare com-

#### World race in trouble

Sailing

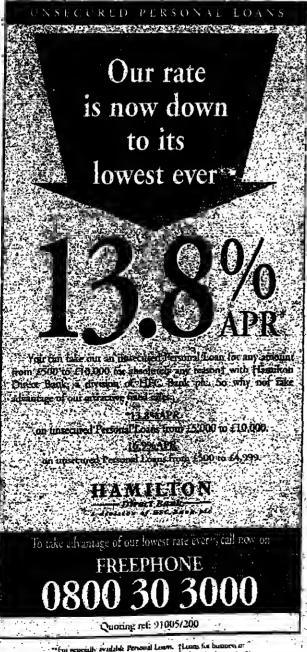
STUART ALEXANDER

A crisis meeting is to be held next week in Switzerland to consider plans for the Grand Mistral round-the-world race, set up as a rival to the Whithread and scheduled to start from Marseilles in September this year.

So far entries have been slow to materialise for a concept which involves the organiser and Whithread veteran, Pierre Fehlmann, building a fleet of identical 80ft vachts to be chartered to competing syndicates. Ludde Ingvall of Finland has taken delivery while the New Zealander, Grant Dalton, the winner of the maxi class in the last Whitbread, will skipper an

hacker, Philip Morris, However, the Frenchman Marc Pajot has lost the support of Ricard and is struggling to find the nec-essary funds for a demanding campaign which will takes the vachts to South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and the United States.

Expectations that Chris Dickson would team up again with Tag Heuer have not materialised. A Russian syndicate has appeared with some funds, but not enough, and a race organisation spokesman. Huns Bornhard, has said that the banks which have been backing the building of eight yachts are asking for more information on whether a pledge, made at London's Boat Show in January, to last Whitbread, will skipper an sec up to 10 yachts on the start entry funded by Fehlmann's line will be fulfilled.



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Basébali

Daldand will play their first six home games of the new season at Cashman panies of the law session at Costman risid in Las Vegas, Nevado, a reno-vations at Alameda Courty Coliseum continue. The Athletics will play three games against Toronto (1-3 April) and three against Detroit 14-7 April.

Baskethall

SUDWEISER ALL STAR GAME (Leicester): ionip 153 (Robmoon 32, Ilumphrey 24, Cau-hom, Ratid 23) South 157 (Corte, 10, Wind-ces 37), Lowes 24), (Series Invel 4-1). MBA Torinto 107 Cherione 23, Adarta 38 Van-rouser 93; Boston 90 Orlando 1122 Xuom 102 Denor 93; Wasimgton 101 San Antono 112; New York 102 Indone 99; Minimbee 97 Sarra-mento 122; Uan 107 Pritadelpha 84; 1A Cap-ness 110 Minimbee 98.

Bowls
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Adetaide): Triples, Section A: Auchinia bt Singapore 20 to 12: Guerristy bt Namaba 25-12; travel to United States 24-6; States 24-6; States 24-6; Its rated to Namaba 25-9; Merica to Singapore 20-14; Australia bt United States 24-6; Its rated to Namaba 25-9; Merica to Singapore 20-14; Namaba to Kema 48-2; Section B: Wales of Algoritan 24-12; Cook Instants bt Whatang VI-11; Instend to Sensation 35-6; South Africa to Ebusyas 21-12; Argentina deev with Materias 19-14; Februard of Cook Hands 22-10; Wales bt South Africa 19-12; South Africa 19-14; South Africa 19-12; South Africa 19-14; Februard 14-14; Februar Comma 45-9; Antipade of Chanala 54-2 Women's proport from the International CHAMPIONISEPS (Liangil) Whales by Incland LAS-84-Natish slope first). C Morgon feet to 2 Cameron 25-16; R domes by N Mongoniser 42-5; A Demon to 8 Wike 25-10: 5 Oliver Vot 10 Mulholland 23-16; B Morgon for M Johnson 20-16; D Rowlands or M Maleion 22-14.

Cricket

Footbail

Rughy League

Leicestershire have signed the 27-year-old all-rounder Carlos Rerny, released by Sussex, on a one-year contract. VICTORIA CRECKET ASSOCIATION CENTENARY MARCAE (Melbourne): Yout of 230 fc 9:50 cars; D M Jones J 033, Australia 211 fc 5 49 cars; M A Laylor 78/, Australia wop by five wickets

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND

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Division: Bohemans v Deny City (7,45); St Panick S Athlesc v Drogneda Uid 17,45);

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First DI-vision: Trefford v Marne Road (7,30).

UNIVET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First DI-

Cycling

Steffi Graf practises yesterday for the Lipton International

Laurent Jalabert, the world No 1, will start the Milan-San Remo classic tomorrow with a knee injury sustained in winning the Pans-Nice race a week ago, Jalabe s hoping to become the first nder to win consecutive races since his fellow Frenchman Laurent Fignon in 1989.

Football

Vefa, European football's governing body, yesterday decided that, from nert season, the European Cup and Cup-Winners' Cup finals can be decided by sudden-death e-tra-time, with the first goal scored in extra time being the winner. It also confirmed that there will be a new retiminar, used to the left Cup. a new preliminary round in the Ueta Cup a new preuminary round in the dena cup in July as well as the existing qualifying round in August. All losing teams in the qualifying round for the Champions' League will automatically go forward to the first round of the Uefa Cup. vario to the instrument of the beat cup. Tomorrow's Hereford v Derlington Third Division feture has been switched to Dar-lington as Hereford's pitch is water-logged. Hereford will now entertain Darlington on 23 April.

Organi, Freiendo was now transmission on 23 April.

The West Ham uanger Dale Gordon, now recovered from the mylury problems which have plagged from for the last two years, has joined Milliwall on a month's loan. TRANSFERS Janon Kearton (Sutteeper Eventon to Presson toon) Andrew Do Bont (pasispeep) Webest to Herrord Wash, than Prenos (milliate) Proby to Swindon Hoan FA CARLING PHEMICHSIMP Feture changes: Wed 3 Agest Leeds vi Southemplon virus 20 Mort Liverpool vi Newspale Junio 13 April Mon 15 Agest Assonal vi Lotenham Junio 13 April Mon 15 Agest Assonal vi Lotenham Junio 13 Maril Nottingham Fores of Lotenham Junio 13 Maril Nottingham Junio 13 Maril Nottingham Fores of Lotenham Junio 13 Maril Nottingham Junio 13 Maril Nottingham Fores of Lotenham Junio 13 Maril

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: European Cup

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESRITS: European Cup
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BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Newcastle + Leices-

ter (8.0); London Lepcardo y Worthing (8.0).

SNOOKER: Embassy World Championship

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BNG: Bullish Olympic Inais (Sneffeld)

qualifying (Tetroid International Centrol).

RALLYING: VOLATER Raily of Waters.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Basketball

Other sports

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HOVEL KSB OPEN (Tokyo) Leading first-round scrares (Japanese unless stated): 65 Shevan Gen. Aut; 66 Shevia. Millento P. Meyhon. Hey Kar. 67 Millento, B. Hovers And. T. Harrico (LS., Sibuta, Shakota, A. Modellen, A. Mod

Hockey

The dates for the semi-finals and final of the HA Cup have been changed to 27 and 28 April so allow dubs to field Great Britan players, who would have been playing in a fournament in Malaysia.

> TODAY'S NUMBER

> > 1,500

The pounds of beef that chefs will be putting into every 3,000 helpings of stroggnoff for athletes dining in the canteen at the Olympic Village in Atlanta this summer. Reassuringly, it is only one of 550 dishes on a "world menu" at the Games.

SPORTING DIGEST ice hockey

NHL: Morusal 3 Harriard 2; New Jersey 1 Boston 2, Toronto 3 Detroit 4 (of): Chicago 2 Calgary 3; Cattes 2 St Louis 1; Winnoveg 1 San Jose 7, Los Angeles 2 Colorado 5, BRITISH CHAMPIONISHIP Play-offs: Group B: Newcaste Warnors 4 Humberside Hawks 10, Pro-motion/leagandon play-offs: Group B: Manchester Storm 11 Swindon Wildcars 3.

ice skating

Britain's Steven Cousins is still in with a chance of a medal at the World Figure Skating Championships in Alberta. Edimontor after finishing the short pro-gramme in fifth place. The men's final free skate, worth two-thirds of the over-all score, takes place tonight. Alan Weeks, 72, the "voice of skating", and a BBC commentator since 1951, will retire after the World Figure Skating Championships, which end on Sunday.

Championships, which end on Sunday, world program supports such a support of the support of the

Lanzante Motorsport, the British team who won Le Mans last year in a McLaren, have had their Porsche entry refused for this year's 24-hour race in June.

Motor racing

BRITISH CHAMPIONSIGPS (Tignes, Fr) Statom: Women: 1 M. Adam. 49.07sec. 50.73, 2mr.23.80res; 2 S. Robertson 50.66. 49.11.139.97, 3 S. Omrond 50.69, 49.89, 1240.38, 4

Snow reports										
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St Anton	,.f3r	spring	95%	123	on-reast	vanable				
FRANCE										
Le Plagne	.compeci	pl-d powder	95%	183	tiear	fine				
Les Arcs	compact	phd powder	90%	20.3	clear	fine				
Chemonix	.palchy	plus powser	83%	17.3	Clear	vanable				
MALY										
Courmayour	.Spreng	compact	99%	17.3	clear	serded				
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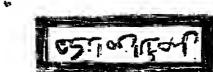
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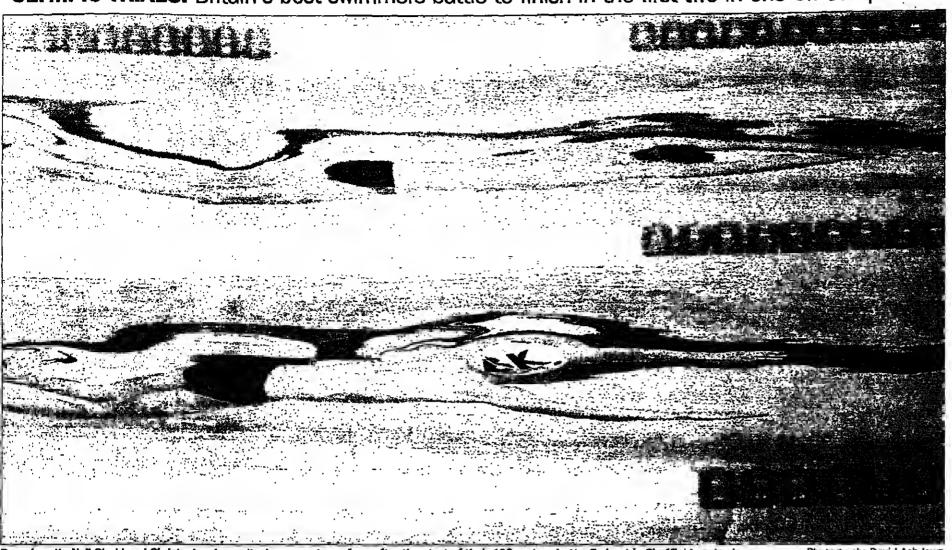
Internation



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John Roberts on the race for No 1

OLYMPIC TRIALS: Britain's best swimmers battle to finish in the first two in one-off competition to qualify for the Atlanta Games



Deep breath: Neil Studd and Christopher Jones (top) prepare to surface after the start of their 100 metres butterfly heat in Sheffield yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

# Flitcroft sale angers City fans

PHIL SHAW

Staff and officials at Manchester City yesterday felt the backlash from angry supporters after one of their prized assets, Garry Fliteroft, was sold to Blackburn Rovers for £3.2m.

Fans besieged the Maine Road switchboard to register their dissent over the transfer of the 23-year-old midfielder, who captained City during Keith Curle's recent absence. Flilcroft pronounced himself "shocked", but the City manager, Alan Ball, insisted the deal was sanctioned on footballing criteria rather than to ease their financial position. "We have a glut of midfield

players at the club," Ball said

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vesterday. "Although Garry has done brilliantly, it's a decision we had to take. There were issues we had to take into account such as the emergence of young Michael Brown, who has proved his class."

Ball's chairman, Francis Lee, maintained Blackburn had instigated the move. Flitcroft, involved with City from the age of 12, said: "The timing was the higgest shock because of where

City are in the League."
Fliteroft's arrival takes Ray Harford's spending in nine months as Blackburn's manager through the £10m barrier. As a combative player with good passing ability, the former FA National School pupil is an obvious replacement for David Batty, who left the champions for Newcastle last month.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

candidates, Southampton, declared vesterday that they will not try to offload Matthew Le Tissier before next Thursday's deadline to finance team strengthening. Dave Merrington, the Southampton manager, said: "Selling Matt isn't the answer. If he wanted to leave, then I couldn't blame him, but I think he'll want to slav as long

as we're in the Premiership. Merrington added that he was "sure" that Le Tissier's rejection by England had left his confidence "shot", but dismissed suggestions that the player was overweight

While Le Tissier remains an international outsider, Lee Bowyer, the 19-year-old Charlton midfielder, the Ipswich goalkeeper Richard Wright, 18, and

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18, have been invited to join the England squad's training for next Wednesday's visit of Bul-garia, Bowyer's chance to impress Terry Venables comes a year after he tested positive for cannabis

Robert Chase's 10-year reign as the Norwich City chairman may be soon be over. Chase, the object of supporters' wrath after the departures of managers Mike Walker and Martin O'Neill and a succession of outgoing trans-fers, said last night that he had received an "acceptable offer" for his 34 per cent shareholding.

in a random drugs test.

Campaigners seeking to remove Chase staged a meeting at a 900-capacity hall in the city last night. Meanwhile, Ian Crook could be the next player to leave Carrow Road, with

Aberdeen in pursuit of the midfielder.

Birmingham City last night agreed to pay £500,000 for the Walsall midfielder, Martin O'Connor, a £40,000 signing from Crystal Palace in 1994. Richard Forsyth is likely to join West Bromwich Albion to make way for O'Connor.

Tony Yeboah, who will become the first Ghanaian to play at Wembley in Sunday's Coca-Cola Cup final, plans to retire at the end of his contract with Leeds United in 1998. The 29-year-old striker, who cost Leeds £3.4m from Eintracht Frankfurt and signed a three-year deal last summer, said: "This will be my last onc. After that I'm going back to

Ghana to coach young players.

There's only one person who

can change my mind, and that's my wife. But she's already decided we're going home, and

nothing's going to change that." Romania's coach, Anghel Iordanescu, has withdrawn his resignation and will lead his country into the European Championship finals after being promised an investigation into his allegations of match-rigging.

Maggie Atkinson, the wife of the Coventry City manager Ron Atkinson, was bound and gagged for 13 hours after bur-glars broke into their Worcestershire home. Mrs Atkinson, whose busband was away on Wednesday night working as a summariser for ITV, was said yesterday to be "extremely distressed" after being handcuffed to a hannister and having jewellery and cash stolen.

Matthew Lewis, the Bridgend stand-off, yesterday became the second Welsh player to sign for Courage League One cluh Wasps. The 25-year-old, who made his Woles A debut against Scotland A last month, follows in the footsteps of Glyn Llewellyn, the Wales and Neath

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REPEN TOTE NESS. play for a club in the area."

Pontypridd are refusing to give their players permission to switch codes and play rugby league during the summer. Several Pontypridd players are understood to have trained with the fledgling South Wales club. who open their Second Division rugby league season at Aberavon against Hull Kingston

Eddie Jones, the Pontypridd

considering making a switch. They are not even on contracts And he stressed that the club would not give permission to any of their players who wish to play league during the union

The Pontypridd centre Shane

reported to be interested.

Jones said: "We have nothsame if they were training with Timbuktu first XV. We would want to be told and we will be

and we are not asking them to play in their season. It's like be-

Lianelli are still trying to

Andy Reed, the British Lions

# eases the pressure

Gillingham

**GUY HODGSON** 

One day into the Olympic trials and one thing is decided: Nick Gillingham will be competing in the singular should be qualify for the Adanta Olympics. The 100 metres breaststroke be aimed at in Barcelona has been jettisoned in pursuit of a gilt edge to the end of his career.

Four years ago, the City of Birmingham swimmer shot through the trials with the fastest times in the world in the 200m and 100m breaststroke which was fine until he came to the Games proper. Then the demands of two distances, and a grom injury, debilitated his at-tempt on the longer, hetter event. The result was a bronze to go with silver he had won four years previously.

Yesterday was a much less spectacular affair, Gillingham qualifying third at 100m m a heat time of 64.25see that proved academic as he promptv announced he was not going to compete in the final anyway. The time was nearly three seconds lower than his mark of 61.33 four years ago - still the British record.

"He did not shave down for the event," Tim Jones, Gillingham's coach, said referring to the swimmer's ritu of removing all his body hair to be smoother in the water. "Nick was using the race for speedwork. He wanted to see what sort of split time he'll do in the 200m and was looking for the low 64s. A time of 64-25 is spot on." The 200m heats and final

are tomorrow. The decision is an acknowledgement that Gillingham's body is less than perfect for the shorter distance. At 5ft 11in and 111/2 stone he hardly risks hav-ing sand kicked in his face on the beach, but the event is about power and at the 50mmark he is usually following in the slipstream of gargantuan opponents. A sweel stroke, aruably the most perfect technically in the world, allows him to catch up over 200m; at 100m he has little chance.

When you are talking about the pinnacles of any sport," Jones said. "You get to the stage where specialist performers take over. Nick's experience four years ago showed you can perform properly in only one

Which is a message that has been ignored by Paul Palmer. who began his exhausting as-sault on three individual places in the Olympic team by quali-fying for the Games in the 200m freestyle, his weakest event notwithstanding a silver medal at the 1993 European

Championships.
His time of 1min 49.64sec should be judged in the context. of his reaching tonight's final of the 1500m freestyle as third fastest in 14:48.70. This was well inside the Olympic qualifying time but behind the two swim mers who will be hoping to edge him out of the two qualifyings places, Ian Wilson and Graeme

"I'm tired and relieved," Palmer, who is also racing in the 400m freestyle, said. "I tried to save myself in the 1500m but it is still going to take it out of you. How they could arrange the 200m and the 1500m heats on the same day is beyond me."

· Sarah Hardcastle, a double! Olympic medallist 12 years ago, also had, what on paper, appeared to be a wearving day. She ensured a place in the women's 400m individual medley at Atlanta after reaching the final of the 800m freestyle in the morning but said: "No. I was fine. I didn't have to go too hard. in the 800m. I don't want it to. sound derogatory to the others in the slightest, but I could afford to take it easy."

Which is very far from how she could he in the medley as Lucy Findlay had a two secon lead after 300 metres. thought if I could keep withi five metres of her going into the freestyle I'd have a chance;" the 26-year-old from Bracknell said. "That just length killed me." I thought I was going to be sick." Nevertheless she won by more than two seconds in 4min 51.07sec, her best time since returning to the sport in the autumn of 1992.

Karen Pickering, winner of four bronze medals in the Eurepean Championships last August, was quick enough to qualify for Atlanta in the heats of the women's 100m freestyle. So the final should have been a formality. Instead Sue Rolph, a 17-year-old from Newcastle, chased her all the way breaking her personal hest by 0.7sec with 56.01. Both will be going to the Games.

Results, Sporting Digest

## Stand-off Lewis joins Llewellyn at Wasps

**Rugby Union** 

The only reason I'm going is for the job outside rugby." said Lewis, who has been offered a joh in London. "But while I am there. I may as well

Rovers in 10 days time.

team manager, questioned the ey. We haven't targeted these loyalty of union players who are guys - they have come to us.

closed season. "We are not agreeable to it at all. We feel we have been good to these players but they have not shown the club the courtesy they should have," Jones said.

MacIntosh and the scrum-half Nicky Lloyd are known to have trained with South Wates, while the wing David Manley and the No 8 Dale MacIntosh are also

ing against the new rugby league club. We would feel the informing them of that."
Mike Nicholas, the South

Wales manager, s.ad: "You cannot expect a professional sportsman to sit idly by for five or six months and not earn any moning in the dark ages."
The South Wales club expect

to name Clive Griffiths, the Welsh rugby league national manager, as their coach today. Griffiths left the Warrington coaching staff earlier this week.

keep their captain, Phil Davies, next season even though he has signed to be the rugby manager of Leeds. Davies, 32, who holds the Welsh record of 46 caps as a forward, has signed. a £200,000 deal over three seasons with Leeds, "It's all down to finance," said the Llanelli coach, Gareth Jenkins, "We may still put together a package to alter Phil's mind."

lock, has emerged from rugby's wilderness to make a claim for a place in Scotland's tour party to New Zealand this summer. Reed, named yesterday in the initial squad of 47, recently returned to the game after a in-jury threatened his career. Rosslyn Park Sevens, page 23

# If Chardonnay is all you make, you get it right. Or else.

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## Graveney may bank on Barclay

John Barciay yesterday emerged as a possible beneficiary of David Gravency's campaign manifesto as the battle to unseat Ray Illingworth hotted up.

Barcley, England's winter tour manager, could be offered a new role as team administrator should the 43-year-old Gravency be elected chairman of selectors on Tuesday.

Graveney has made it clear that there would also be room for other younger, progressive to have been approached by men in his new-look England set, some counties who saw him as up - with the likes of Ian Botham, Mike Gatting and David Lloyd becoming candidates for the official coaching staff.

Graveney outlined his vision

should be run after the Test and County Cricket Board con-firmed yesterday that he had been nominated to challenge Illingworth, whose two-year contract expires on 31 March. The 42-year-old Barclay is in

line to play an important role in helping to regenerate the national side. The former Sussex captain, who won good reviews as the assistant to Illingworth on tour this winter, had a first-hand view of England's depressing slump in South Africa and at the World Cup. He is understood a challenger to Illingworth for the post of chairman of selec-

tors, but he declined to stand. "I would not be doing the same job as Illy - I think that's of how the England team the most important point to

make," Graveney said. "I see the chairman of selectors role as an overseeing one, taking an overview and making sure the structure is operating properly. "I want to achieve continuity. in selection and administration.

so I would want someone to act as a team manager at home and doubling as a tour manager abroad. There would be a chief coach, working closely with the captain in team matters, but also other coaches.

"People keep mentioning Ian Botham, and I can see an important role for him in the dressing-room and in a general coaching and motivational capacity. He inspires, he gets on well with the players. I want a much larger management team,

and more back-up. Lara faces rap, page 23

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